

Sketch

MPs bring back the besmirch



Simon Hoggart

POPPED into the Commons at 2.30pm, just as the second half of England's match was beginning. There were 67 MPs there, which for Monday afternoon is plenty. Even more startling, they started to drift away at 3.30pm, a few minutes after the game had ended. Perhaps they thought it was finally safe to go outside without people drowning on about England's lack of forward penetration.

It all goes to prove that the overwhelming majority of people are FIs — Fairly Interested. We don't throw chairs through cafe windows, but equally, we don't pretend that nothing is happening. We vaguely hope that England do well, but if they don't, we'd regard a half of bitter and a bag of crisps as a perfectly adequate consolation.

MPs had their routine gripe about the bootleggers. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said they had "besmirched" the name of English football. ("Besmirched" is one of those permanent words which is only ever used of football bootleggers, just as you only ever have a "farrago of untruths". Nobody ever talks about a "farrago of spicy snackfoods" or a "farrago of beautiful women".)

I do find it faintly creepy when MPs all agree about something. You longed for some ancient Tory to stand up and praise "the fighting spirit of Britain's bootleggers, showing some of the bravery and sheer guts which gave Johnny Frenchman a bloody nose at Agincourt and Waterloo... Of course, no one did.

Even Dennis Skinner joined in, attributing the trouble to fighting between the English National Front and the French National Front. Since our TV screens also included words of North African youths chucking stones and petrol bombs at the police, one won-

dered quite where they fitted in Mr Skinner's highly politicised world view. But then I think if you probed long enough, you'd find that he blamed the wet weather we've been having on global capitalism.

I then popped into the House of Lords to watch Lord Longford ask about prisoners. He is 92 now, and there may not be many more chances to catch him in action. Sadly, he was not present to ask his question. The 7th Earl is one of the last dotty hereditary peers, a people who face extinction as surely as any Amazonian jungle tribe.

I once stood next to him in a gents' toilet in Warrington, where I was covering a by-election. Startled, I rather rudely asked him what he was doing there on behalf of the Universe, he said, gravely. I thought that was a bit thick, even for Longford, but he meant that he was writing an article for the Catholic newspaper of that name.

Back in the Commons, MPs were debating the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill. Many seemed outraged by the fact that a psychologist or a psychiatrist will be one of the new committees who will decide if terrorist prisoners get out early.

Mr Robert McCartney (UKU, Down N) said darkly that he had had long experience of both types. "They are extraordinarily gullible people who practise this bizarre branch of medicine." I was slightly riled, since my wife is a psychologist. But, so, surprisingly, is Mr McCartney's wife, and they have been happily married for 37 years. Maybe they get over the mole-baiting by using a technical term at home, "trick cyclists" perhaps.

David Maclean, a Tory, got into a terrific luff and said ministers were twice as good at deciding who should get out as either psychologists or psychiatrists. Any terrorist in a period, he implied, could fool a shrink. He was berated by Adam Ingram, the prisons minister.

Gosh, he got cross. "It does not behove the minister to be as disrespectful to my colleagues as to be disrespectful to me." Like "besmirch" it is a word you never hear outside Parliament or a court of law.

Prime Minister hails EMU as 'turning point' in unstable world □ Summit agrees to remedy confidence crisis

Blair signals early euro entry

Martin Walker and Michael White

TONY BLAIR told the European summit yesterday that Europe and the euro zone were "a pillar of stability in an unstable world", signalling the start of a campaign to prepare British voters for early entry into the single currency.

"The world economy is facing its greatest risk in two decades," Mr Blair said, arguing that the Asian crisis and Japanese recession were creating such volatile circumstances they could justify Britain seeking a safe haven in the euro zone.

"EMU has been a turning point," he told his fellow European Union leaders. Its sound macro-economic policies had led to price stability and would bring high growth and employment.

"The measures we are taking in Britain to get rid of the budget deficits we inherited and squeeze inflation out of the system are measures that would be necessary inside or outside the euro zone," Mr Blair said later.

"They give us a better chance that the European single currency zone will combine that overall economic stability with the reforms necessary to make industry more competitive and our people more prosperous."

British officials denied any policy shift, but a series of pro-European, even integrationist statements, during the day pointed that way. They included a stout defence of the Brussels Commission against charges that it was too hunched over Europe's problems from ordinary people.

"The Prime Minister was clearly using the role of the EU presidency to advance the cause of the euro in Britain," a senior EU official noted.

"The mood-music was extraordinarily positive," Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, have been working on the assumption that they will not stage a referendum on replacing the pound with the euro until after the likely 2002/2 general election. But some MPs believe global economic uncertainty could speed up that



Nelson Mandela greets well-wishers in Cardiff. But the summit failed to deliver on open-trade promises made to him earlier. PHOTOGRAPH: KEN SMITH

timetable. William Hague has set the Tories against early entry and victory is far from assured — unless voters see the euro as a "safe haven".

In his chairman's role as president of the Council of Ministers yesterday Mr Blair also managed to deflect Chancellor Helmut Kohl's predicted demand for reductions in Germany's budget payments, even though the Dutch strongly back Mr Kohl. Discussions wait until the Commission's budget reform plan is published in the autumn.

"We are coming at this from a pro-Europe perspective, not the old Euro-scepticism," the Prime Minister's spokesman stressed.

Responding to Mr Blair's Euro-enthusiasm, the EU summit unanimously accepted Britain's argument that Europe faces a crisis of confidence with its people. The 15 heads of government agreed to review ways to make it less remote.

"There is a consensus on this as Europe's main prob-

lem, that our electorates want to be part of a strong Europe but they do feel remote from it," said the Prime Minister's spokesman. "People must see decisions being made at national and local level."

Mr Kohl made a powerful speech on behalf of Britain's long-standing advocacy of "subsidiarity" — making decisions at local and national level wherever possible — although officials noted that the Central and British concepts of subsidiarity were not necessarily identical.

The most likely outcome of the new informal summit in October, according to a range of European sources, is an endorsement of the proposal from the EU president, Jacques Santer, that a new council of deputy prime ministers from each member state should take over the role of co-ordinating the work of EU institutions and governments.

The EU leaders adopted a strongly-worded declaration on Kosovo and increased Serbia's isolation by imposing a

ban on all flights from Yugoslavia to the EU. But they ducked the legal issue of whether or not they would back Nato military operations without a UN mandate.

Officials were still haggling last night over the terms in which the final statement could refer to Turkey's application to join the EU, after the refusal by Greece to accept a British compromise of calling Turkey "the 12th candidate".

Cardiff summit, page 5
Kosovo waits, page 6

Review

What exactly is a loyalist loyal to?

Mic Moroney

As the Beast Sleeps
Peacock Theatre, Dublin

WEANED on BBC Northern Ireland radio plays, Belfast playwright Gary Mitchell is about as authentic a mouthpiece for the loyalist underclass as you can get, and he has been pumping out stage, radio and TV scripts since taking up the pen in 1991.

This, his 10th play, fifth for the stage, is another stark cautionary thriller set in his native Rathcoole, the sprawling loyalist estate north of Belfast. The action revolves around a clandestine drinking club, its offices and infamous back room, where both Catholics and disloyal Prods have lost wits, teeth, fingers and lives.

There is no mention of referenda or Good Friday Agreements which, frankly, happen far from the characters' lives, but the play is set in the rolling here and now.

Typically, Mitchell needles into the corrupt hegemonies, class divides and secretive command structures that run from Unionist politicians down through the UDA and vigilante factions — a chain crumbling under the pressures of the peace process.

The question of loyalty — to friend and family, or to self and Ulster — provides the lethal Catch-22 for Kyle, a local hard man. The bank jobs and sectarian murders that he once carried out with his team are no longer valued by the suits and ties of the new order, who want the renegade elements "taken out of circulation".

Cold-shouldered by the club, Kyle and his volatile but

loyal mate, Freddie, place their trust in the local Brigade commander, himself under the stranglehold of the politics. Meanwhile, the accountant who runs the new, semi-legitimate club — Frank McClusker, delivering one of the most brilliant character studies ever seen on the stage — is a worse villain than the dim doorman, whose cricket-bat diplomacy is the pivot for the bleak but uproarious comedy of pool cues and near-batterings.

Motivated in three neat mini-acts, the play does not clear up a hit here and there.

It is never entirely apparent, for instance, whether Kyle's bolshie moll, Sandra (Cathy White, whipping her hands around like the tail of an angry cat), is bedding Freddie behind Kyle's back. But there is little place for intimacy, as the scenario lurches towards the queasy payoff of the long agonising, whodunnit torture scene.

Director Connal Morrison works the cast up from manic hatred to a raucous frenzy at every step in the command structure, from the penniless low rankers that exist on the margins of Mitchell's ire: the apocalyptic politician, slaving after his blood money, which has vanished in a mysterious heist.

With the flinty Stuart Grant in the key anti-hero role, this is a far more uncompromising piece than Mitchell's award-winning *A Little World Of Our Own*.

Mitchell writes fearlessly but, most important, while dissecting the conflict and lampooning recognisable stereotypes, his angry dramatic equations never fetter the Troubles.

Drugs mule violin player jailed

Janet Wilson

A FORMER BBC Young Musician of the Year semi-finalist who smuggled cocaine worth £500,000 into Britain was jailed for four years yesterday. Hannah Thompson, aged 25, a violin contestant in the BBC's prestigious competition in 1992, became a "mule" for a drugs gang after going into debt and becoming addicted to alcohol and drugs.

Last year she was promised £5,000 by a gang of Nigerian traffickers to smuggle the 3kg consignment from Brazil hidden under toys in a holdall. But customs officers in Britain had tipped off and she was arrested outside a friend's house in London.

After she was caught she agreed to help customs investigators catch the gang. Her co-accused, Bennett Iwenofu, 40, an illegal immi-



Thompson: 'undoubted talents' wrecked by drug addiction

grant from Nigeria, whom the judge described as "calous, cunning and unscrupulous", was jailed for 14 years after Thompson gave evidence against him. He recommended that he be deported on release from prison.

Sentencing Thompson at Isleworth Crown Court in West London, Judge David Miller said it was so sad to see a woman of her "undoubted talents" become hopelessly addicted to drugs. "It seems to

me that your life is an example of the incredible harm that drugs can do to promising young people."

However, the judge said he was able to make "very substantial reductions" in her sentence because she had faced up to matters, pleaded guilty to smuggling and given evidence for the prosecution.

During the trial the court was told that Thompson, a former convent school girl whose father is a retired

army officer and Catholic deacon, had been taking drugs since she was 18. After leaving school she had taught at a mission school in Lesotho, returning to Britain to study geography at King's College, London. She dropped out after a year and her use of drugs such as LSD, crack cocaine, amphetamines and ecstasy escalated.

Giving evidence last week Thompson, of Southall, west London, said she suffered from acute depression, anorexia and alcoholism. "I was taking drugs and was drunk most of the time."

She paid for her drug habit by earning up to £120 a day busking in central London. "I spent the money on as many drugs as I could find," she said. With debts of more than £7,500 she was at a low ebb when last summer she met Iwenofu, a cleaner at Club 15 in Piccadilly Circus, an illegal central London drinking den. Iwenofu bought her cocaine and asked her to smuggle, first cannabis from South Africa, then the cocaine from South America.

After flying to Sao Paulo via Zurich in November last year, she spent a week in a hotel smoking crack cocaine provided by the men in the smuggling operation. When she left one of the gang put the cocaine under a pile of toys in her blue holdall.

Thompson's lawyer, Michael Morris, said she hoped her case would highlight the dangers of narcotics and "prevent someone else from destroying her life by resorting to illegal drugs".

Macs and Mcs 'stand higher risk of MS'

Sarah Beeceley
Health Correspondent

A SCOTTISH surname is invariably a matter of pride, but researchers yesterday published the disturbing discovery that those who bear the prefix Mac or Mc also have an increased risk of multiple sclerosis.

Dr Peter Rothwell, of the Department of Clinical Neurology, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and a colleague appear to have found an answer to a strange medical conundrum — why there is virtually no multiple sclerosis at the Equator, but that incidence of the disease increases by latitude the further north or south one travels.

Their thesis is that there is a genetic factor to MS as well as environmental causes, and that the Scots appear more likely to carry the relevant genes than other races.

A high incidence of MS is found in those places where expatriate Scots tend to cluster, such as the south island of New Zealand, south Australia and the northern states of the US.

Writing in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, the doctors point out that the Faroes, the Orkneys and the Shetlands have been found to have very high rates of MS. They made no mention of Ireland.

"In the past there has been an idea that it has been caused by some sort of infectious agent," said Dr Rothwell yesterday.

"We wanted to know whether MS was highly prevalent elsewhere in Scotland. We looked at the south-east of Scotland and found the highest-ever apparent incidence

in the world and virtually equivalent to those reported in the Orkneys and Shetlands."

The researchers discovered that between 1992 and 1995 there were 12.2 per 100,000 population of new MS cases in the Lothian and Border health regions. This is the highest rate recorded.

When they looked at the rate of MS among those people with a definitely Scottish name — the Mac or Mc prefix which dates back to the 13th century or names with comparably certain Celtic origin — they discovered that people were some 24 per cent more likely to get the disease than those without Scottish surnames.

The prevalence of MS increases sharply at the Scottish border, they note, and then remains fairly constant throughout Scotland in spite of the increasing latitude, which is difficult to explain as an environmental effect alone.

"The higher than expected proportion of cases of multiple sclerosis with Scottish surnames in our study is consistent with the hypothesis that Scottish ancestry is associated with an increased susceptibility to multiple sclerosis," the doctors write in the journal.

"Scottish ancestry appears to be a 'risk factor' for the development of multiple sclerosis, and this may explain the high prevalence of the disease in countries in which there are significant numbers of Scottish migrants."

But Scots need not despair, Dr Rothwell said. For the individual Celt, any increased risk is not that significant — two or three in 1,000, compared with the general risk of one in 1,000.

OUR BUSINESS IS DELIVERING

A family of businesses

صكنا من الامم



England fans watching on a big screen in Bordeaux celebrate their team's first goal against Tunisia while in Marseille, French police deal with a transgressor outside the Stade Vélodrome

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEFAN ROUSSEAU left and PATRICK VALASSERIS

Anglophile city braced for invading hordes

New recruits to England's job faction have compounded police problems for the next match

John Duncan, Martin Thorpe and Duncan Campbell

TOULOUSE prides itself on the greeting it extends to visitors and is even laying on a team of ambassadors to sell the spirit of the city to World Cup fans. But the city has been forced to amend its traditional welcome for the English, who are heading their way for Monday's match against Romania.

"We have put more officers on duty for the build-up to the game. We fear there will be trouble," said a police spokesman. "In fact we know there will be trouble. We will do all we can to minimise it."

They have given up any hope of keeping opposing fans apart at the match. The black market and unofficial tour operators have already made that impossible.

Toulouse is a beautiful medieval city, wealthy, anglophile and rugby-loving — very different from Marseille, a traditional port with a large immigrant population sympathetic to Tunisia.

But the policing problem before next week's game is the same — how to deal with the English. This time, however, the matter is complicated further by the fact that hooligans previously unknown to the police are thought to have played a big part in orchestrating the violence in Marseille.

Before the World Cup started, Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service database had listed 700 category C "fans" — the known troublemakers.

Category B "fans" are those who sometimes get into trouble, usually when drunk, and category A are the well-behaved travelling supporters. The total database of 6,000 contains the names of 200 who are believed to be the most active and most violent.

There is another category, the new troublemakers. When their team plays abroad, it rarely takes the English yob elements long to find each other. They congregate in main squares where they are guaranteed bars and the space to gather in numbers.

In Marseille, this focal point was the Quai des Belges, a small waterfront square in the old port, with the official Olympique Marseille café in the centre of one side and large bars on the other.

Trouble began on Saturday night when Englishmen spilled out to the road from the Café OM. They blocked the road, singing and chanting, and English at the south corner, drinking and singing. A group of Tunisians drove their cars round the central grass area of the square repeatedly booting horns and taunting the English.

Very little happened. Then at about 4pm a group of Tunisians from the other side of the square organised a march

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The rival factions, about 400 English and around 1,500 Tunisians, regrouped at either end of the square. The police cordoned the Tunisians and watched the English.

By 9.30pm on the other side of the marina, there were running battles between Tunisians and police, with local youths becoming increasingly involved. Two groups of French and English youths attacked each other outside O'Malley's — the French armed with baseball bats, the English throwing bottles.

As Tunisian and French numbers increased, the majority of English moved away and it was left to locals to gather and make noise in the main square, with occasional rounds of tear gas keeping a wobbling order to events. The violence gradually moved up one of Marseille's main streets, the Rue de Canebière.

At about midnight, the remaining English made their way to sleep at the Gare St Charles, where trouble flared again.

It was there at 12.30am that two English fans were stabbed, one in the throat, the other in the stomach. Both are serious but not critical.

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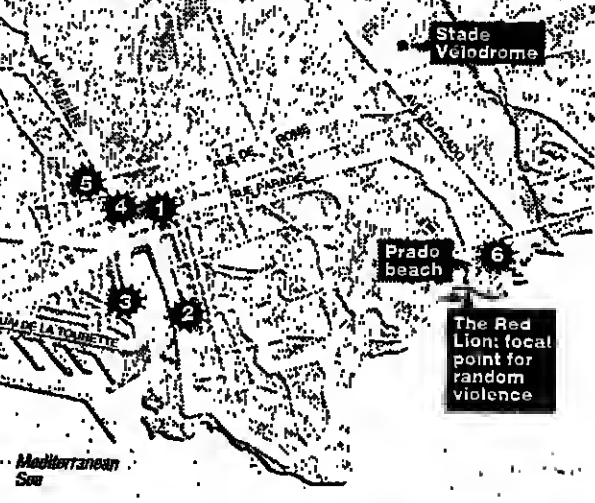
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Port of shame



- 1 Saturday 13 June afternoon/evening Quai des Belges — Chanting English fans block road, one hurt by motorist.
- 2 8.00pm Quai de Fives Neuve — Café systematically wrecked by English fans.
- 3 9.30pm - 10.00pm Other side of marina. Running battles between Tunisian and English fans and police.
- 4 Midnight La Canebière — Violence between fans.
- 5 12.30am Gare St Charles — Two English fans stabbed.
- 6 Monday during match Prado Beach — Violence between fans watching the game on a giant screen.

World Cup 98

Diary

FORGET football, ignore the rioting. The England team may have made a successful start, the English hooligans may have lived up to their reputation, but for France 98 the issue most likely to provoke stress in fans is debating the relative merits of... counselling.

Hard on the heels of the revelation that Tony Adams has flown his own mental guard-ian out to France comes another boost for the therapy profession. A Cheshire pub

landlord has hired a counsellor to deal with the football-induced traumas of his customers.

Seems a good idea? No way, says Angela Patmore, author of a new book about the benefits of stress. She claims sophisticated — and expensive — stress management techniques pale in comparison with the emotional benefits of simply watching a match. So for all those Scotland fans steeling themselves for today's clincher against Norway, remember: it's for your own good.

THEY could, of course, follow the old-fashioned example of many armchair England fans and stick the kettle on. At the stroke of half-time yesterday, the National Grid recorded a 1,000-megawatt jump in output — double the surge experienced at half-time during Scotland's tie with Brazil.

BUT then, there will always be some who come up with their own way of coping with the tribulations of following

Scotland — though in this case the impact on the unfortunate souls in their immediate vicinity remains to be seen. Ten fans have paid £1,400 to have a curry — complete with samosas, side dishes and two cases of lager — flown by charter plane today from a Bournemouth restaurant to their hotel in Bordeaux. "We're not much into football," said Mustafa Aolad, manager of the Eye of the Tiger restaurant. "But we support Scotland now. Otherwise we might get the curry sent back to us."

AT least Scotland's game is unlikely to slow the relentless pace of European integration. At the summit of EU leaders in Cardiff yesterday, a debate on the future of Europe was interrupted at 15-minute intervals to give Tony Blair and the assembled heads of government an update on England's progress. After the final whistle, Mr Blair declared the 2-0 score a "fantastic result". And the political debate? "We did that — more or less."

THE Saudi Arabia squad will be hoping that justice in France is not similarly affected. They have more justification than most for invoking that old football cliché, we were robbed — and not just because they lost their opening game 1-0 to an uninspiring Denmark. While the game was being played, a thief entered 10 rooms at their hotel near Lille and stole £2,000 in cash. Counsellors specialising in victims of crime, please form an orderly queue.

— Stuart Miller

THE wheels of justice were hardly turning much faster at Southwark crown court, where Judge Mota Singh QC decided to send a jury home early. The four men and eight women were told they could go after the judge decided there was a risk they would be so preoccupied with the goings-on in Marseille that they would be unable to focus on their verdict in the trial of six men and a woman accused of conspiracy to defraud.

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How Italy played pianissimo

At Italia 90, softly softly police tactics led to fuggi fuggi reaction

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

THEY called it *fuggi fuggi*. Loosely translated it means scattering, or running for cover. And at the end of most long nights during the 1990 World Cup in Italy, *fuggi fuggi* was the phrase most often used by the Italian police to describe what English fans had been up to on the streets of Cagliari, Sardinia, and later in Bologna.

More than 200 fans were arrested and deported from Rimini on the east coast as England were preparing for their match in Bologna. The troublemakers had gone for a seaside break while police watched the campsites of

Bologna and the subsequent violence took the authorities by surprise. Some innocent fans found themselves caught up in it and were deported without even their luggage. But to spite of the dire warnings, Italia 90 is not remembered for the riots, and in the end it was the Dutch and Germans who came across as the most violent.

So did the Italians do it better than the French or has the travelling Englishman just become nastier? Malcolm George, assistant chief constable of Greater Manchester, helped co-ordinate the policing of Italia 90 and was in Cagliari, Bologna and Bari, acting as the Association of Chief Police Officers' spokesman on public

order. He said yesterday that co-operation with the Italian police had been excellent, although even so there had still been some trouble.

"In Bari (where England played Italy for third place), the English fans were welcomed by the local people and that seemed to pay off," Mr George said yesterday. "The atmosphere was excellent and there were no incidents."

Drunk Englishmen paraded up and down the seafront of Cagliari during the early stages of Italia 90, picking fights with young locals. But police avoided using tear gas, relying on a policy of moving people on and separating the English from the locals.

The Italian police, with some baton-wielding exceptions, tried the softly-softly approach. Some Englishmen arrested with drugs as they arrived off the ferries in Sar-

dinia were surprised to find themselves let off with a warning.

Drink played its part in Italy, as it has done in France. But the upshot was largely good natured.

"Unfortunately alcohol does have a major part to play," Mr George said. "We've tried banning it but how possible is that? It is legal."

Italia 90 saw the beginnings of what has become an increasingly sophisticated European-wide network for the exchange of police intelligence on football violence.

But Italian police were anxious to avoid confrontations and hence tried not to up the ante by resorting to tear gas. Maybe they were just lucky in that most of their problems went no further than *fuggi fuggi*. As Mr George said yesterday: "Total security can never be achieved."

Steel doesn't grow on trees.

Think Wood

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY. EVEN LAST YEAR'S AD IS RECYCLABLE.

Think Wood

Colleagues and former patients join forces to support 'caring and conscientious' heart surgeon

Bristol baby doctor's plea

Sarah Boseley
Health Correspondent

JAMES Wisheart, the Bristol heart surgeon who operated on children and sanctioned a colleague operating after they both should have realised too many children were dying, should not be debarred from the profession just because he made a mistake, a QC argued yesterday.

On the first day of the resumed hearings at the General Medical Council, lawyers for the three doctors in the Bristol babies case began their pleas in mitigation. They will argue that Mr Wisheart, who was also medical director of the United Bristol Healthcare Trust, his fellow surgeon, Janardan Dhasmana, and the trust's

chief executive, John Roylance, are not guilty of serious professional misconduct. If they are found guilty, they can be struck off the medical register or admonished.

Opening the hearings which have resumed two weeks after the three doctors were found not to have acted in the best interests of their patients, Roger Henderson, QC, for the GMC, stressed the importance of the case. "Matters of considerable public interest arise. They all relate directly or indirectly to the care of patients."

Patients and their parents were entitled to the truth from the doctor. The onus was on the surgeon to keep informed about the risks any procedure involved. If the patient would run less risk of death or damage by having it done by a different surgeon in a different hospital, then it

was the doctor's duty to refer the patient elsewhere. The GMC looked at 53 operations which took place on children at the Bristol royal infirmary in which 29 children died.

It found that Mr Wisheart should have stopped performing AVSD (hole in the heart) operations before July 1993, when 11-month-old Harvey Shopland died, followed by Matthew Rundle, nearly 10 months, in March 1994 and Hanna Silcox, nine months, in August 1994.

Mr Dhasmana should have stopped the "switch" operations on babies to correct a back-to-front heart before September 1993. He did two more such operations and the second baby, Niall McKelvey, aged three weeks, died in October 1993.

Mr Dhasmana should also not have operated on 18-month-old Joshua Loveday in

January 1995, and Mr Wisheart should not have encouraged him, the GMC found. Joshua died. Dr Roylance did nothing to prevent the operations going ahead.

But Duncan Matheson, QC, said Mr Wisheart was "the epitome of what a caring and conscientious doctor should be" who would never knowingly have misled patients. "He misjudged the situation and made mistakes," said Mr Matheson. When he told parents about the risks their child was running in his hands, his information was wrong.

The GMC had already accepted he was a man of honesty and integrity and would not have falsified the statistics. "It is far more to judge the seriousness of the errors he made, but they were errors, rather than serious misconduct," he said.

Mr Wisheart was warned by colleagues that his failure rate was too high, but those warnings were not specific. "Nobody ever said to Mr Wisheart, 'James — you've got to stop doing AVSDs'."

"It is a tragedy for Mr Wisheart. He has spent all his time trying to save lives and now he is being held accountable for the loss of lives."

Senior doctors gave evidence on Mr Wisheart's behalf, saying he was an exceptional surgeon who had plenty of time for his patients. Susan Gale of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, told the committee that Mr Wisheart had saved her life 22 years ago when she was a 15-year-old dying because of a heart defect.

"I was just going downhill fast. I could not go to school, my father carried me up to bed, I spent a lot of time in a

wheelchair." But after the operation, during which Mr Wisheart had inserted a pig's heart valve — one of the first operations of its kind in Britain — her life was transformed. Last year, she gave her valvula a "21st birthday party" at which Mr Wisheart and his wife were guests of honour.

Outside the GMC, the father of a boy whose successful heart operation was carried out by Mr Wisheart put up a placard declaring his support for the surgeon. Tony Collins's son, Alan, now 11, was taken to Bristol royal infirmary for an emergency operation when he was a baby.

"I never once as far as I can say told us anything but the truth," said Mr Collins. "I do have sympathy for the parents who have lost children but it seems like a bit of a witchhunt now."



A pair of rare female peregrine falcon chicks which hatched in a nesting box on top of a block of flats in Brighton, East Sussex, on May 12. They should fly in about three weeks, and their progress is being monitored by members of the Sussex Ornithological Society, who have ringed them. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Man killed by prisoner was a victim of 'disastrous failings'

Nick Hopkins

WHOLESALE failures by every agency involved in community care led to the killing of a remand prisoner who was beaten by a mentally ill cellmate, an inquiry concluded yesterday.

In a withering critique of the police, the Prison Service and health and social workers, the report into the death of Christopher Edwards said there were "disastrous deficiencies on a multitude of issues".

Neither he nor Richard Linford, the paranoid schizophrenic who attacked him, should have been in jail, let alone sharing quarters at Chelmsford prison.

The inquiry's chairman, Keiran Connan QC, said the breakdown in support for outpatients was "all too familiar". The general public is entitled to be reassured that steps will be taken to stop this type of tragedy happening again.

The inquiry, which took 3½ years and cost £1 million, made 85 recommendations, but Mr Edwards's parents Paul and Audrey from Coggeshall, Essex, were highly critical of its findings.

They accepted that the 400-page report was an exhaustive summary of the catalogue of blunders and failures which led to their son's death, but were angry that there was no "sense of outrage... for such a disgraceful level of failure".

Mr Edwards said: "The acceptance of the tragic inevitability of failure which is pervasive throughout this report is the breeding ground for future tragedies, not for initiatives that will lead to major improvements."

Mr and Mrs Edwards are demanding to meet the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to discuss the role of the police in the tragedy, on November 29, 1994.

They are also considering legal action as a result of the report, if necessary as far as the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr Edwards, a 30-year-old graduate, died within hours of being placed in a cell with Linford, who had a long history of mental disorder, hallu-



Audrey Edwards (left) and Wendy Titheridge, mothers of the two men, at the inquiry

inations and violence.

Mr Edwards was so badly beaten that he could only be identified by dental records. One of his ears was missing, premolars eaten.

Mr Edwards himself suffered from mental illness. He had been remanded in custody for three days by magistrates after being arrested for pestering women near his home in Colchester.

The five members of the inquiry team discovered that the killing could have been prevented if the authorities had taken more care to assess the men they were dealing with.

As their investigation widened, they also discovered disturbing flaws in the care being offered to both men, especially Linford.

The report said Mr Edwards should have been admitted to a psychiatric hospital for assessment after being arrested, but acknowledged "with dismay" that there might not have been a bed available for him anyway.

It said the police failed to complete a CID2 form about him, which would have

alerted magistrates to the fact he suffered from mental illness. To make matters worse, the Prison Service subsequently ignored advice from Mr Edwards's father that his son was unstable.

"These features amount to a systematic collapse of the protective mechanisms that ought to have operated to protect this vulnerable prisoner," the report said.

"These deficiencies resulted in the needless and tragic loss of a talented young man and much loved brother and son."

However, it was the complete breakdown in Linford's treatment which made the most chilling reading.

The inquiry reported that Linford, 37, who is being held at Rampton secure unit, had been suffering from depression since 1980.

He had attacked his mother on at least three occasions, and assaulted a vicar and a prison officer. He had had numerous spells in psychiatric hospitals.

Yet in the months before he killed Mr Edwards he was back in the community say-

ing at Severalls hospital. His care in the community plan "gradually collapsed".

The consultant psychiatrist in charge of his case was not responsible for the area where Linford lived, and had no connection with the community teams on the ground.

Linford's care co-ordinator Allison Lamb was not told what her duties were, so when Linford stopped taking his medication and refused to turn up to outpatients appointments, he disappeared from their sight. "He was not being monitored by anyone," the report said.

The inquiry said Linford's condition was not properly assessed. If mental illness had been identified he would have been held in prison, the report said.

Alec Seaton, chairman of North Essex Health Authority, spoke on behalf of all the agencies criticised at a press conference yesterday.

He apologised to Mr and Mrs Edwards and to Linford's mother, Wendy Titheridge, but thought that services had improved during the last four years. The police and prison services also expressed regret.

Beatles' record producer tells of drug worries

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

SIR George Martin, the record producer who was a key figure in the Beatles phenomenon, will today tell a police conference that he has always been disturbed about the amount of drug taking within the music industry.

"Everybody does it. That is what frightens me," he has told the official Association of Chief Police Officers' journal. "Drug-taking has become the norm."

Sir George, who today will address the Acpo conference

'Lennon looked so ill. Later I learned what John had taken was LSD'

at Hinckley, Leicestershire, told the journal that he had always disapproved of drug taking even in the 1960s, and he left the Beatles in no doubt about his views.

"They knew I disapproved. I was a bit like a teacher at school."

He remembered John Lennon looking very "under the weather" during a recording session. He saw him taking what he thought was something for a cold and thought no more about it but as Lennon's condition deteriorated, Sir George grew concerned.

"I took him on to the roof to get some fresh air. He looked so ill. With hindsight that was probably the worst thing I could have done. Later I learned that what John had taken was LSD."

But Sir George denies the song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds was a reference to LSD. He says that it drew its inspiration from a painting done by the Lennon's son Julian.

Lennon, Sir George recalls, "cleaned up his act" and he does not believe that he suffered a terminal decline because of his ventures on to

the drug scene. Sir George is anxious to do whatever he can to turn young people away from drugs, he told Policing Today.

Colin Phillips, chief constable of Cumbria, yesterday told the conference that the wrong message was being sent to young people by the pop and fashion industries. "Why do we allow that?" he asked.

"Isn't it time for people to stand up and be counted?"

Mr Phillips, chairman of Acpo's drugs committee, suggested that pop musicians should organise an anti-drugs crusade in the way that professional footballers had collaborated in the "Let's kick racism out of football" campaign. Musicians could announce that they were drug-free and that other young people should be the same.

Pop singers had been quoted as saying that taking drugs was the same as having a cup of tea, he said. This sent a confusing message to young people. He was not calling for pop songs about drugs to be banned, but he would like to see self-regulation in the music industry. "Drugs are the virus of the millennium," he said, likening them to AIDS in the 1990s. "We need to take action now."

He accepted that police and customs could not tackle the problem alone. "Enforcement is not the answer. Now is the time to do something different."

"Drugs have been normalised in society. Why is it that we think it's a bit of a laugh, a laddish thing to do?"

He said of the fashion industry: "The heroin-induced image of the drugs inside the make-up bag. Are drugs becoming a fashion accessory? Why is this image of drugs being promoted?"

The editor of Vogue, Alexandra Shulman, will address the conference on drugs and the fashion industry.

Richard Kellaway, chief investigation officer for Customs and Excise, told the conference that West Indian drug traffickers were now using young Lithuanians and Latvians as couriers instead of young British women.

News in brief

Air and sea search for Tornado

AN AIR and sea search was launched yesterday for a Tornado fighter jet which was thought to have crashed into the North Sea while on a routine training exercise from RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, with two other fighters. Two search and rescue planes were scrambled from RAF Leconfield, in East Yorkshire, together with two Sea King helicopters in a bid to find the aircraft which is thought to have ditched 20 miles north east of Flamborough Head.

An RAF high-altitude surveillance aircraft equipped with radar technology, was diverted from a training mission over the North Sea and two lifeboats were launched from Bridlington and Filey. Distress signals from beacons attached to the aircraft and the crews' clothes had been temporarily picked up by searchers, but were quickly lost despite being designed to withstand air crashes and bad weather conditions.

An RAF spokesman, Craig Lyndsey, said: "We received no mayday or any other calls. All we can do is keep the helicopters out there for as long as we can in the hope we will find something. We must assume there has been a crash but we don't know if the crew have ejected or gone down." The search was hampered by heavy seas and thick fog, making it difficult for rescue craft to spot wreckage.

Alcopop bubble to burst

ENERGY drinks are set to topple alcopops as the top choice for young drinkers, according to analysts Datamonitor. They say that by 2002 alcopop sales will have dropped to around 50 million litres a year, compared with 96 million litres in 1997 while energy drinks, claiming to enhance physical and mental alertness, will have risen to 100 million litres from 70 million last year. Sports drinks which claim to enhance physical performance and recovery afterwards, will also become more popular.

Datamonitor said public uproar over soaring sales and the subsequent withdrawal of alcopops from some shops and shelves had helped put the brakes on their meteoric success in just a couple of years. Although energy drinks have come in for criticism by medical bodies over their health claims, Datamonitor said they were less controversial than alcopops.

Police 'becoming soft'

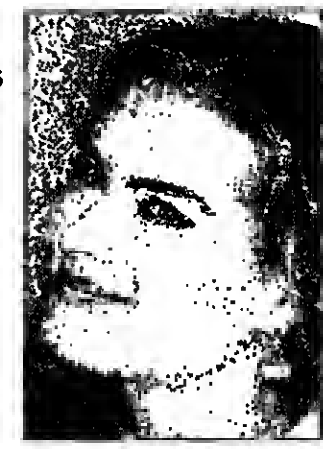
POLICE officers are becoming too soft to do the job and are depending on therapists and social workers to help them deal with death and destruction, Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie of the Police Superintendents Association said yesterday. He told a London conference, Stress — A Change of Direction, that officers have no right to sue for stress caused by doing just what they are employed to do.

He said: "Police officers are expected to work in a riot squad one minute then portray the friendly bobby on the beat image the next. There is a tendency to suppress emotional responses. That can be damaging but there is a danger that interfering with the alarm mechanism that stress causes in the body stops them carrying out the job they are employed to do. We have to suppress sadness, pain and panic so we become good at disguising it. Joining the police you know traumas and disasters will always have to be dealt with but we have created an unfortunate dependency on counsellors and social workers. Police expect hardship, death and disaster and have to handle their feelings. Stung underlines and enfeebls the values on which the police service is based."

Actress gets libel damages

ASSOCIATED Newspapers acknowledged yesterday in the High Court that the Mail on Sunday on May 24 published a "false and highly defamatory" front page story that actress Brooke Shields had been questioned by police about drugs.

The editor, Jonathan Holroyd, and two journalists expressed "sincere regret" to Miss Shields, who is an anti-drugs campaigner. The court heard that as well as a front page apology the defendants had agreed to pay her, or a charity of her choice, "very substantial damages".



Brooke Shields: was given front page apology

Mother burned two-year-old

A YOUNG mother who suffers from Munchausen's syndrome burned her two-year-old daughter's hand so badly that the child may never recover its use, Oxford crown court heard yesterday.

The 21-year-old woman, who suffers from the attention-seeking disorder, burned her daughter's hand although she told police that the girl had put her hand in a fire herself, the court heard.

The mother, from Greater Leys, Oxfordshire, cannot be named for legal reasons. It was stated that she was arrested after social services had become concerned about the child's health.

The woman admitted a charge of grievous bodily harm and was released on bail to be sentenced at the same court next Monday. She had denied the more serious charge of grievous bodily harm with intent. The crown accepted that plea and a guilty verdict was recorded.

The jury was told by Nigel Daly, prosecuting, that the child's injuries were such that she needed skin grafts and will need continuous physiotherapy. There was only a 25 per cent chance that she would recover full mobility of the hand.

Nicholas Syrett, defending, told the court that his pregnant client had no idea what she had done. He added: "This is an absolutely tragic case of a young woman suffering from a severe personality disorder. The daughter is now living with grand parents."

No charges over Diana letters

THE former fiancée of James Hewitt will not face charges over the alleged theft of his intimate letters written by Diana, Princess of Wales, police said yesterday. Anna Soriano Ferratti, 38, was arrested at Waterloo Station in April after claims that she tried to sell 62 letters to a national newspaper for £150,000.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said: "After advice from the Crown Prosecution Service we have decided there is no action to proceed against a 38-year-old woman arrested on April 3 on allegations of theft."

Michael Caplan, Ms Ferratti's lawyer, said his client, a former model, had assisted fully with police inquiries.

Ex marks the spot

LONDON Weekend Television has commissioned a pilot show of a game show called Can We Still Be Friends?, which tests 30-somethings on their knowledge of former boyfriends and girlfriends.

The pairs will be reunited to take part against other couples in a knockout competition involving quizzes. Then the winning pair will be asked questions of each other in a head-to-head contest as they compete for the big prize.

The winner has their prize chosen by the losing partner which could be a holiday — or, if they are feeling vengeful, a tin of spam. A spokeswoman for LWT said it would not be a case of springing surprises on the couples by wheeling in their "exes" unexpectedly. "To appear, couples have got to be at the stage where they get on amicably."

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The Guardian Tuesday June 16 1998

EU fails to deliver on promised exports deal with South Africa □ Clashes over Europe's next moves loom for Britain and Germany

CARDIFF SUMMIT 5

Mandela trade hopes dashed

Michael White and Liz McGregor

WHAT should have been a triumphant victory tour for Nelson Mandela before he steps down as president of South Africa has been marred by European Union failure, under Tony Blair's presidency, to deliver on open trade promises made when apartheid collapsed.

President Mandela joins the EU heads of government for lunch in Cardiff after a breakfast today with businessmen and tea yesterday with the Queen at Windsor, but there was disappointment in Cardiff that he was unable to seal his visit with the completion of a trade agreement between his country and the EU.

South African diplomats expressed dismay at what they see as EU intransigence in defence of domestic products like fruit and wine.

EU officials admit that countries like France, Spain and Portugal, whose farm produce competes with much that South Africa would like to export to rich European markets, have been making difficulties during the protracted negotiations. But they insist that Mr Mandela's negotiators failed until recently to come up with a formula for reciprocal opening of South Africa's long-protected markets, as required under the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Downing Street's spokesman told reporters that the Prime Minister would have liked to see more done "to take forward EU-South African trade relations, and that is no doubt something President Mandela himself will want to give voice to when he is here. We see that as a useful opportunity because his presence will concentrate minds on it."

Mr Mandela made an oblique reference to his disappointment over the trade deal before an audience of business people yesterday.

He expressed his gratitude to the British for funding his defence in the treason trial that put him in jail for 27 years. "I know how generous the British are," he said.

But he reminded them of the 254 billion rand debt his government had inherited from the apartheid government, how the servicing of that debt swallowed the funds that could have fed and housed the 20,000-odd homeless children "whose hopelessness and anxiety" haunted him and gave him sleepless nights.

At stake in the trade negotiations are such key South African exports as wine, cut flowers, and citrus fruits. The South Africans argue that since their seasons are the opposite of Europe's they do not compete directly, although they pay the same tariffs as the US.

The EU case hinges on "WTO compatibility". That requires a reciprocal opening of trade to cover an average 90 per cent of products on both sides. Its aim is to prevent local distortions which, in this instance, could hurt neighbouring African states.

The EU side is offering 95 per cent, including the disputed products, but until this month Pretoria was seeking exemptions on 1,200 mainly manufactured products, reduced on June 10-11 to around 100. That puts it within the 95 per cent range — meeting the 90 per cent average. EU companies want to be able to compete for South Africa's infrastructure contracts.

South Africa's complaints amount to saying that European leaders made generous promises when President Mandela took power and basked in his reflected glory. But they do not put their money where their mouths are.



Tony Blair waiting on the steps of Cardiff City Hall to welcome EU leaders to the summit yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF MORGAN

Kohl's pay demands test Blair

Martin Walker on problems Labour faces in trying to create a new Europe with like-minded modern social democrats

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl's election-driven plea for some relief for Germany's massive net payments into the European Union budget is as serious and as well-founded as Mrs Thatcher's similar if more strident demands nearly 20 years ago.

But it presents Britain with two problems. The first is the fear that any fundamental reassessment will put Britain's special deal at risk. This can be managed.

The draft plans already circulating among the commissioners in Brussels for a new payments system suggest scrapping the current confused mix of VAT receipts and shrinking tariffs on imports and moving to a straightforward levy through which each country pays a direct proportion of its GDP.

This will satisfy Germany, and will on current figures lead to Britain paying even less than it does now.

The second problem is far more tricky. It has long been Britain's strategy to nudge apart the Franco-German axis which has driven Europe since the 1950s, and if not to replace France in that alliance then to craft a more open three-sided system.

Beyond the short-term question of the old warhorse Helmut Kohl being replaced by the man Germans dub Herr Blair, the Anglophile Social Democrat leader Gerhard Schröder, this core question of the future of Anglo-German relations faces a series of severe tests.

However much Tony Blair wants to build his new Europe of like-minded modern social democrats with

Mr Schröder and the even more Blair-like Rudolf Scharping, SPD leader in the Bundestag, a series of issues are looming where British and German interests are set to clash.

Rather than who pays what, the real question is what Europe's money is spent on. Over 40 per cent of the budget goes on farming. So far more serious for Anglo-German harmony is Britain's determination to use the enlargement process to kill off the Common Agricultural Policy.

But farmers, and their devotion to the CAP, remain a far more powerful political force in Germany than in Britain, and Germany is so far blocking any serious approach to CAP reform. This obstruction will continue through the Austrian presidency of the EU, which starts on July 1, to be followed in turn by the German presidency next year.

Then comes the problem of the EU's Structural Funds, on which a third of the EU budget is spent. Britain is fighting hard in the trenches of the Brussels bureaucracy to ensure that Northern Ireland and the Highlands and Islands continue to get full Objective One status, even though neither qualifies for the EU's poverty criterion of a per capita GDP of less than 75 per cent of the EU average.

The German EU Commissioner for Structural Fund, the Social Democrat Monika Wolf-Mathies, wants the rule firmly applied — to the benefit of the former East German provinces.

Then comes the problem of Turkey, which Britain wants to resolve by accepting this strategic NATO ally as "the 12th applicant" for EU membership. Chancellor Kohl, who has made some unfortunate comments about the EU as a family of Christian nations and whose country already contains some 2 million far from assimilated Turks, was visibly content at the way Turkey was given the brush-off at the last EU summit.

By far the most serious problem, however, is the one which on the surface looks the most harmonious — Germany's firm support for that

British principle of "subsidiarity", which means decisions being taken wherever possible at national or local level rather than by Brussels.

Chancellor Kohl is currently passionate about "subsidiarity" because he has been outraged by a series of Brussels decisions. There was the record fine on Volkswagen for price-fixing, and another ruling which declared illegal the state aid for a Volkswagen development in former East Germany.

Most infuriating of all was the decision to block a German pay-TV merger. Mr Kohl, keen to keep his media barons sweet in an election year, had threatened the EU Commission President Jacques Santer with "war" over the issue.

Britain's interest is the

reverse, to strengthen this kind of pro-competition work by Brussels in the interests of a free and single market.

It is Mr Blair's hope that these divergent interests are the products of a Kohl era which may soon be fading, and can all be resolved in the glow of "Third Way" consensus with Mr Schröder as the new chancellor.

And yet the likeliest outcome of the German elections seems to be a grand coalition, in which Mr Schröder governs with Christian Democrats support, which will keep the problem of German farmers and German corporations edgily alive.

Mr Schröder will inevitably govern with German interests in mind. The new Anglo-German entente will prove hard to achieve.

Rioting fans put PM on defensive

Sketch

Michael White

TONY Blair grappled manfully with a public relations disaster at the European Union summit in Cardiff yesterday. Here he was, talking about the need to bring the peoples of Europe closer together when the Mar-seille police was spending

most of the day trying to keep them apart.

In the circumstances the Prime Minister maintained his dignity, more or less. But he did so at a price: through his official spokesman he gave the French authorities a free hand to deal with what he called "English hooligan elements in whatever way they think fit".

The decision can be dressed up in Euro-jargon, what they call subsidiarity. All the same it was a dreadful fate to wish

on anyone, even drunken English fans. It is one thing to unleash "Maximum Jacques" Straw on football delinquents, but French riot police? Not since the mayor of Philadelphia accidentally firebombed local voters has a politician been so reckless with the customers' safety.

Apart from that it all went as well as a dull day in Cardiff can go. The city was looking its best. That is to say, it did not rain. True, the new Cardiff hotel was not ready. The new Cardiff Bay Barrage was as empty as a summit declaration and the people of Europe had not been brought closer together by the summit's traditionally draconian security arrangements.

Ironically, Mr Blair did not see the match for which he had suffered so much. While Glenn Hoddle's squad was playing against Tunisia, he was trying to score for England at the last EU lunch of his presidency. Aides said he might see the video later, but already knew the score. Needless to say he was "delighted".

Anxious not to set an example to the fans, his visitors all behaved well. Helmut Kohl did not make too much of a fuss about the German budget rebate. Neil Kinnock, who might have been the summit's host if things had been different, made jokes about Cardiff's famous Kohl Exchange. When Welsh minister Peter Bain, toasted "the Queen, coupled with 15 EU leaders" at a dinner, Glenys Kinnock MEP hoped she wasn't coupled with them all.

Mr Blair's efforts to bring the summit closer to the people of Europe included a photo-opportunity with schoolchildren, bussed in on purpose, unlike the Welsh farmers who were trying to prove what good Europeans they are by blockading Fishguard harbour.

"Would you like a Polo?" a tot asked her prime minister. "Yes," he said and took one. It is hard to imagine Gladstone doing it, but then he had his own ways of getting close to the voters. So far as is known

they did not include poking fun at Bismarck. Would any of the tots recognise Chancellor Kohl, he asked them, indicating that Europe's Mr Big is by no means anorexic.

Some said yes, some said no. It was what New Labour calls a focus group. "Kohl's in trouble with young voters, only a 48 per cent recognition factor," Mr Blair will be able to tell Peter Mandelson.

The summit was held in Cardiff City Hall, refurbished at a cost of £1.5 million and

Queen opts for Welsh seaweed

THE Queen plumped for traditional Welsh laverbread — boiled seaweed — as a starter for the leaders of Europe at their banquet at Cardiff Castle last night.

The menu drawn up by head chef Trevor Jones and selected by the Queen for the 130 VIP guests was:

Canapes with leek, laverbread and sea trout;
Asparagus salad with quail eggs in warm butter sauce;
Stuffed saddle of salt-marsh lamb with Pembrokeshire potatoes and seasonal vegetables;
Glamorgan strawberries with elderflower ice cream;
Welsh cheeses;
Coffee with warm Welsh cakes;
Welsh wines.

good enough for Mr Kohl, but not good enough for Ron Davies's Welsh Assembly which is building a new one. Journalists stayed in student halls but were compensated with a free CD entitled "Wales: an interactive introduction to the best business climate in Europe."

They were compensated for the free CD with free beer tickets with which to watch the England match. Brains, the local brewery, has produced a new hatter called Dylan, after the poet, Dylan Thomas. It is already known as DTS.

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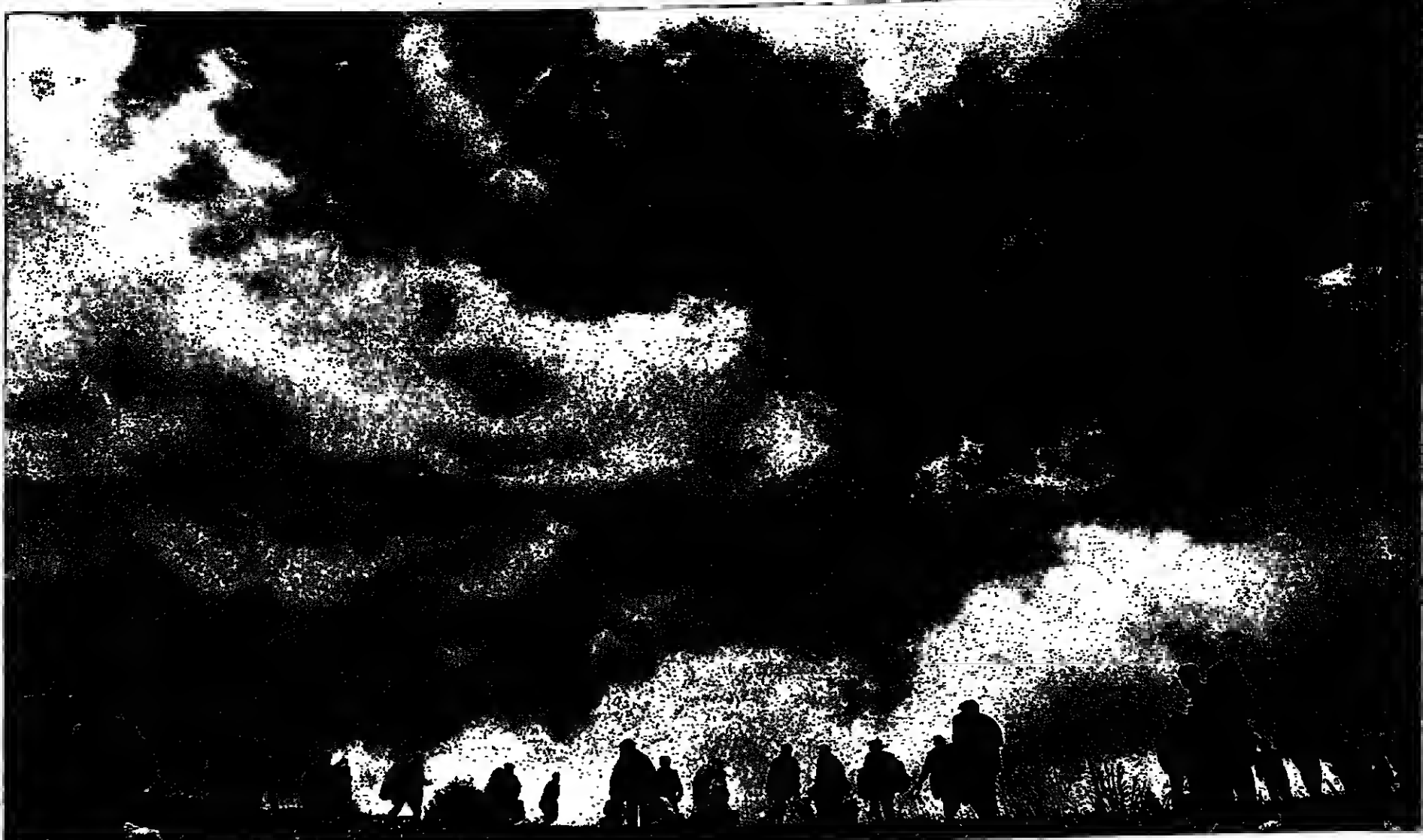
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Children in the Albanian capital Tirana (above) watch Nato planes flying overhead yesterday during air exercises to warn the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic, to stop violence in Kosovo. But the display of military might was not seen across the border in the troubled province, as more than 350 refugees (right) fled to Albania yesterday to escape Serbian security forces



Kosovans wait in vain for West's help

Jets were expected to patrol as a warning to Belgrade, but all **Helena Smith** could see on the Kosovo border were butterflies

WE WAITED and waited and Nato never came. Where were the Harriers, F-16s, F-18s, reconnaissance planes and C-130 aircraft carriers? Where was the promised show of Western military might over the border across which thousands of ethnic Albanians had streamed to escape their Serbian tormentors? Where, asked a perplexed Albanian guard, was Operation Determined Falcon — the long-awaited display of power on his country's north-eastern front?

Kosovo lay before us, the red-tiled roofs of its neat hamlets shimmering in the early morning sun. It lay there, abandoned, silent and still with not a soul, shadow or shadow in sight. Instead of people there were butterflies; instead of planes there were birds. And when they had gone, helicopters — Serbian military MiGs — emblazoned with the insignia of the International Red Cross crisscrossed in and out of Albanian airspace.

If this was sabre-rattling, it was sabre-rattling in a closet. "None of our teams saw any Nato aircraft flying over the border," said a visibly frustrated official with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

"We had hoped to see at least 10 Black Hawk helicopters flying very low over the

border firing the occasional missile flare." In Albania, at least, the disappointment was palpable. Nato called its mission of mock air raids a success. "We didn't want to make much noise. It went very well," Francesco Veltri, the spokesman for Allied Forces South-east Europe, told a Finnish journalist.

SAS in place to guide planes to Serb targets

SAS special forces are being deployed in Macedonia to guide RAF aircraft if Nato decides to attack Serb targets in Kosovo, writes Richard Norton-Taylor.

The SAS teams have "line of sight" systems which can guide aircraft to fixed targets.

They carried out similar missions during the war in Bosnia. Nato has drawn up contingency plans for air strikes, but official sources were reluctant yesterday to comment on the details.

Though Nato planes can direct one another to targets, using SAS teams on the ground has the advantage of saving the aircraft for attacks.

SAS soldiers have been in

But for those who stand to lose most from the crisis, there was a sense of being mocked. That feeling increased as we moved down from the front towards settlements of unrelenting poverty where people have accepted scores of refugees into their homes.

"This area has been the main border pass for refugees and it has been the place where the Serbs have concentrated their forces and their heavy artillery," said Shaban Nezirli in the village of Kasaj.

"What's the point of flying their planes elsewhere? That's not going to frighten the Serbs. Kosovo will be another Bosnia if Nato continues like this."

Misery, a 23-year-old shepherd, has taken 13 Kosovans into his mud-and-wattle home. His grandfather, Rexhep, who is aged 102, still remembers the Serbs shelling the house during the First Balkan War, shortly before Albania was recognised as a

modern state at the London peace conference in 1913.

For him, like his compatriots, the significance of Kosovo is overwhelming because it was where the Albanian national movement was born — although the Serbs consider it the cradle of their own medieval statehood.

"The Serbs will kill and they will kill again, but this time we have guns," he said.

"We just wished the Western powers had intervened in Kosovo earlier, because everyone knew this was going to happen," added Emin Krasnica, a midwife who fled the southern Serbian province last week. "We want to return, every day and every minute, Albania's very poor. We can't stay here."

While in high Albania the Nato exercise was found more than wanting, the operation of ethnic cleansing on the other side of the border appeared to have moved into high gear.

Yesterday UN High Commissioner for Refugees officials said they were "dismayed" by the sudden increase of refugees across the border. By 11am some 365 ethnic Albanians had poured across the frontier. In the past week fewer than 200 have made the journey each day.

"Some have come from Gjakova which is cause for great concern. We are considering establishing tent cities to house them in, because some 5,000 refugees are also said to be waiting in the mountains."

As the main magnet for the internally displaced in Kosovo, Gjakova is the central concern for Western officials, who fear it will be the next target of the Serb guns.

Up and down the mountain pass, refugees told of how Serbian security forces fired on them as they tried to escape. "Helicopters came last night and fired lightning bolts into the skies and then an aeroplane came and shot at us," said Xhem Shehu. "We had waited in the mountains for two weeks out of fear, but we ran for our lives. Nato must intervene."

Moscow rebukes Nato on the eve of Yeltsin talks with Milosevic

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S defence minister, Igor Sergeev, yesterday accused Nato of deceiving him about its plans for the Balkans in an ominous overture to today's vital talks in Moscow between President Boris Yeltsin and the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic.

Gen Sergeev met General Henry Shelton, chairman of

the United States joint chiefs of staff, in Moscow yesterday. But their views on Nato's exercises in northern Albania, which are designed to intimidate Mr Milosevic, were so far apart they might as well have remained on opposite sides of the Atlantic.

Gen Sergeev complained that he had not been told of the exercises when he met Nato defence ministers in Brussels last week.

"It was a surprise for me,"

he said. "As a soldier, I've become used to valuing honesty in people. I can't understand why I've been treated like this."

Gen Shelton said the exercises had been planned to "reinforce the peaceful steps taken by President Yeltsin".

The defence minister's public indignation at the exercises is a warning to the West that the Kremlin cannot afford, politically, to support direct Nato military action against Serbian forces in Kosovo.

This was underlined by the Kremlin's description of the scheduled return to Moscow of its chief military envoy to Nato, Lieutenant-General Viktor Zavarzin. Although it referred to it as a "recall", Nato officials said the real reason for his return was to get his visa renewed.

A foreign ministry official, Vladimir Rakhmanin, repeated Moscow's view that without the support of the United Nations Security Council there could be no

legal military moves against Serbia.

Much is riding on today's Milosevic-Yeltsin encounter, with neither Russia nor the West sure about what happens next if the Yugoslav leader does not prove pliable.

For the Yeltsin administration, which has staked its existence on good relations with the West, the only response to a Nato attack on Yugoslavia would be angry rhetoric. But at a time when the president has already been politically damaged by the continuing financial crisis, Nato's bombardment of a sovereign state would make him look foolish in the eyes of Russian patriots for ever accepting that the alliance was defensive in nature.

Behind the scenes the West may be offering to bail out Russia with loans in exchange for Mr Yeltsin's help in the Balkans. This would be a dangerous strategy, because it is no more certain Mr Yeltsin can deliver peace than that the West can afford big new loans.

French find overtime does not pay as 'job police' watch the clock

Jon Henley in Paris

SUCCESS, as every keen young executive knows, comes to those who start early, finish late and take a bulging briefcase home at the weekend. So pity the French corporate climbers who are discovering that working too hard has become a crime.

Before a controversial plan to reduce the working week to 35 hours comes into effect, the government has started raiding companies to make sure executives and other professionals are not putting in more

hours than the current legal limit of 39 a week.

"Several thousand violations have been reported at four or five big companies we have looked at," a spokeswoman at the employment and solidarity ministry said. "They are test cases, really. The status of upper-level employees, management and others has to be clarified."

The raids, carried out by the ministry's 420 inspectors often on tip-offs from trade unionists, have led to bizarre scenes at some companies, according to an investigation by the International Herald Tribune newspaper.

Senior engineers and executives trying to conclude a key contract at a subsidiary of the telecommunications giant Alcatel were surprised to find the job police in their midst at 7pm one evening this year, demanding to know why they were working so late.

In another case, about 1,500 violations of working hours uncovered at a subsidiary of the defence electronics group Thomson-CSF left senior managers facing fines of up to £50,000

each. After negotiations with the ministry, the company agreed to close its corporate headquarters at 7pm every evening.

"We have been warned about this," a junior executive at one of the country's leading DIY chain stores said. "We haven't been inspected yet, as far as we know — but we've been told to be careful. The inspectors can apparently be very devious."

Some reports have claimed that several inspectors have gone as far as photographing car licence plates to deduce their owners' working hours, or monitoring personal computers to make sure that no work was being sneaked home.

Last month the French parliament approved a draft bill cutting the legal working week from 39 hours to 35 hours by 2000, a victory for the Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, who had made the measure a key plank of his election campaign last summer.

The law calls for all companies with more than 20 staff to institute the 35-

hour week by January 1 2000. Smaller firms have two more years to comply, and businesses will be offered tax or other incentives in the first year if they act before the deadline.

The law has been condemned by business leaders, who say it will lead to higher costs, reduced competitiveness and job losses. But Mr Jospin argues that it will help ease France's 12 per cent unemployment rate by spreading jobs around.

Exactly how the law will work will be defined by legislation due next year, but it is already clear that one of the key problems will be its application to *cadres* — company management, executives and skilled professionals who generally work long hours.

According to the employment ministry, the inspectors have been suspended to allow for negotiations on how this group, who make up nearly a quarter of the workforce, will be affected.

For the time being, however, keen young executives may be better off watching the clock than putting in unpaid overtime.



The new Two Pound coin.
(See other side for details.)

CATHOLICS!

The Traditional Latin Mass is still widely celebrated with Episcopal permission.

It is often sung with Gregorian chant.

If you would like to worship at this rite of Mass contact

The Latin Mass Society for an information pack 0171-404-4959 24 hrs.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

The Guardian
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Alex Duval Smith in A
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Suzanne Goldenberg

Bissau's refugee crisis spreads

Alex Duval Smith in Abidjan reports on the growing exodus that is threatening to overwhelm West African neighbours

WEST AFRICA faced a growing refugee crisis yesterday as thousands of people fleeing fighting in the tiny country of Guinea-Bissau tried to enter neighbouring Senegal and Guinea after being turned away from foreign evacuation ships.

Rebel soldiers insisted in radio broadcasts that they remained in control of at least part of the military garrison in the capital, Bissau.

A spokesman for the Senegalese army, which is supporting Guinea-Bissau's elected president, Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira, told Portuguese radio it had taken control of the garrison but still faced pockets of resistance.

The rebels deny that they revolted a week ago was a coup against President Vieira. They say they want new elections so that corruption in the former Portuguese colony, which has a population of 700,000, can be rooted out.

Yesterday the capital was rocked by heavy shelling after a brief lull. Forces loyal to President Vieira were trying to capture the airport but were being picked their way through minefields planted by the rebels.

Whether or not forces loyal to the president backed by 1,300 troops from Senegal and 700 from Guinea — wrest control of the strategic Bra garrison, the region now has a refugee crisis on its hands.

Senegal closed its border with Guinea-Bissau as soon as the revolt broke out but let in refugees on humanitarian grounds last week after giving them yellow fever and meningitis vaccinations.

According to some reports, there were scuffles and shooting as refugees were turned away from the foreign evacuation ships at the weekend. These people have now left Bissau on foot.

An official in the north of Guinea said on Sunday that about 1,400 people had sought refuge there since Friday. According to one report, 40,000 people have entered Senegal.

Portugal has flown 5 tons of emergency food aid to Sal Island in the Cape Verde archipelago, but a foreign ministry spokeswoman in Lisbon could not say yesterday when it would be delivered.

By last night at least 2,000 foreign nationals — mainly Portuguese and Brazilian — had left Bissau aboard ships bound for the Senegalese capital, Dakar. They included 94 Peace Corps members, the United States ambassador and other Western officials. Britain has no diplomats in Guinea-Bissau.

The evacuation operation, which began last Wednesday under the command of the Portuguese army, turned to tragedy on Sunday morning when an overcrowded boat capsized and up to 200 people drowned.

Information continued to be scarce and unreliable. Both the country's airports remained closed yesterday and international telephone lines were working only intermittently.

A local journalist working for the French news agency AFP said the rebel leader, the former armed forces leader Major Ansumane Mane, had strong support in the Muslim north — an area with strong ties to Senegal's secessionist Casamance region.

The Gambian-born Maj Mane, a guerrilla in the 1974 liberation war, was sacked as armed forces chief in January, along with 12 other top brass, amid allegations that he had been involved in smuggling arms to Casamance rebels.

Later he told a parliamentary commission of inquiry that the defence minister and President Vieira had also profited from the arms trafficking.

The rebellion, reportedly involving a sizeable proportion of the army, broke out shortly before the commission — made up of MPs from the ruling and opposition parties — was due to deliver its



Refugee children fleeing Guinea-Bissau wait to disembark in Dakar harbour, Senegal, on Friday

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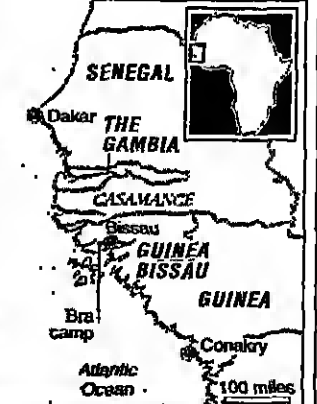
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findings, on Monday last week.

A Portuguese journalist close to President Vieira said the president had recently made several trips to Europe and had moved his wife and children to Paris. There has been speculation in Guinea-Bissau since January that a coup was imminent.

But troops on both sides have rejected several offers of outside intervention, including from Gambia's president, Yahya Jammeh. In the past few days he has visited several West African capitals to gather support for a mediation effort.



Hindu temple stokes a blaze of Muslim fury on Ayodhya ashes

The holy warriors are building on the rubble of a mosque they razed, reviving memories of a shameful episode in Indian history. Suzanne Goldenberg reports

THE stone carver soothes his hand over the golden curve of what will one day be a pillar, nods his head and returns to work with the high, clear sound of hammer against chisel.

Beneath the shadow of a giant stone-cutting wheel, craftsmen chip away, coaxing Hindu deities and figures from the stone and — some fear — religious passions that have been stifled for five years.

On December 6, 1992, watched by politicians who are now in the coalition cabinet led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Hindu zealots desecrated up to the three domes of a 16th-century mosque, the Babri Masjid, then razed it to the ground with sledgehammers.

The act transformed Ayodhya, a sleepy temple town revered by Hindus as the birthplace of Lord Rama, as well as the BJP, which rode to power on the swell of religious feeling.

Years later, the destruction of the Babri Masjid is seen as the most shameful episode in modern India. Thousands died in the riots that followed, and Indian Muslims have yet to trust the state again.

Now the sponsors of the stone-cutting workshop, the Hindu extremist Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu Council), are building a grandiose temple on the rubble of the mosque.

The temple, designed by Chandrakant Somapura — the architect of Neasden's Swaminarayan temple — is years from completion. But last week it was the subject of such controversy that the prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had to assure parliament his government would not violate a supreme court ruling barring construction on the site.

But it will be hard to convince liberals or Indian Muslims of the BJP's sincerity. The party's election manifesto this year read: "The BJP is committed to facilitate the construction of a magnificent Shri Ram Mandir at Ram Janmasthan [Rama's birthplace] in Ayodhya, where a makeshift temple already exists."

The BJP dropped the pledge when it entered into coalition rule, but Muslims remain suspicious.

"This is only the beginning," said Zafarullah Jilani, a Lucknow lawyer and counsel for the Babri Masjid Action Committee, which has fought for years for legal recognition of Muslim claims to the site.

"We have suspected for a long time that when the BJP came to power they would start removing the obstacles to construction of a temple."

It seems unlikely that such niceties will be heeded by the holy warriors of the VHP, who are unrepentant about destroying the mosque.

"The mosque was a stain on independent India and now we have removed it. We have corrected history," said Paramhans Ram Chandra Das, a bearded holy man who heads an influential Hindu sect and is president of a trust that has raised 90 million rupees (£1.3 million) for the temple.

He argues that work on the temple has gone on unnoticed since 1994, and that the recent furor is political. "In order to belittle the impact of the nuclear explosions the opposition is creating a fuss about it."

Floors and panels for the ground floor of the temple are complete, as are almost half of the 106 pillars that will support the next storey. VHP activists say they decided earlier this year to step up activity at the Ayodhya workshop and three other stone carving sites in the western state of Rajasthan, where work started in 1996.



An Indian craftsman (above) chisels away at stone pillars for the Hindu temple

Officials say they are powerless to shut the workshop because it lies a mile from the site — outside a court order. Muslim activists say such reluctance is characteristic of the original legal dispute over Ayodhya has been languishing in the courts for 49 years because judges fear a verdict could be explosive.

Of the original players in the dispute, only Mr Paramhans and a Muslim tailor, Mohammed Hashim Ansari, are still alive. The case was filed when Mr Paramhans crept into the mosque and planted an image of Ram inside.

Instead of removing the offending idol and treating the act as a trespass, local officials allowed both sides to contest ownership of the site in court, leading to decades of judicial inaction.

In the meantime, the site has become a fortress guarded by 1,500 security men. Hindu worshippers approach the single image of Ram, visible through a flap in a canvas tent 25 yards away, by snaking along an enclosure of thick iron bars and mesh, and only after they have been frisked three times.

Mr Ansari said: "It is not a question of one mosque. It is a question of the existence of the Muslim community as a Muslim community. If the Hindus can capture our religious places by force, then nothing is safe. This is the place where we have to fight decisively."

His opponents are as determined. Several temple activists say they have met regularly with BJP leaders, especially the home minister, L. K. Advani, who faces criminal charges in connection with the destruction of the mosque.

The holy warriors believe the temple will be built, and with the BJP's connivance. "Though they are hemmed in by the constitution and political pressure from other parties, I still believe they will go ahead either directly or indirectly," said Mahant Nityanagopal Das, who is in charge of a temple complex in Ayodhya.

"Until now they have been busy saving the government, but I hope in the time to come they will support us — even if it has to be indirectly."

News in brief

Journalist's killing prompts Yeltsin to step in

THE Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, said yesterday that the killing of an opposition journalist should be investigated "to the utmost".

Mr Yeltsin said officials in the Russian republic of Kalmykia who are investigating the case of Larissa Yudina "cannot be fully trusted", the Interfax news agency reported.

Yudina was found dead last Monday in the Kalmykian capital Elista with knife wounds and a fractured skull.

A Russian news agency said authorities in the southern republic had banned a rally scheduled for yesterday in her honour.

Yudina was the head of the Soviet Kalmykia Today newspaper and was frequently critical of President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. He said on Sunday that he would resign the presidency of Russia in 2000.

One of the three people detained over the killing is a former official in Mr Ilyumzhinov's administration. — AP.

Nigeria frees 9 political prisoners

NIGERIA's military government ordered the release yesterday of the former ruler General Olesegun Obasanjo and eight other political prisoners.

General Abdulsalam Abubakar, the new president, "hoped the freed people would reciprocate the gesture by co-operating with the political transition programme", according to a statement.

Those freed include oil union leaders Milton Dabibi and Frank Kokori, journalist Chris Anyanwu, activist Boko Ransome-Kuti, politicians Bola Ige and Olabisi Durojaye, Uwen Ukeh and the former sultan of Sokoto Ibrahim Dasuki.

The statement made no mention of Nigeria's most prominent detainee, Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of elections in 1993. — Reuters.

Germany fixes fast trains

The German railway yesterday began replacing wheels on all 23 high-speed trains of the type that derailed and crashed after breaks were found in the same wheels on local trains.

Investigators are focusing on wheel failure as the probable cause of the June 8 accident near Eschbode that killed 100 passengers. — AP.

ETA arrests

Spanish police arrested six suspected members of the Basque separatist group ETA yesterday and detained a former top guerrilla after he was expelled from France, officials said. — Reuters.

Iran quakes

Two earthquakes measuring 4.6 and 4.8 on the Richter scale hit two provinces in Iran yesterday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, the official news agency Irna said. — Reuters.

Illegal trade

The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh declared trade in human

A conflict that borders on the insane

Despite yesterday's news that Eritrea and Ethiopia are halting air strikes, the fighting looks set to go on, David Gough in Adigrat writes

LETGEBRIEL Getsadik was making tea in her two-roomed house in Adigrat, northern Ethiopia, when she heard the plane overhead. She remembers shouts from the street calling on people to flee their houses. Picking up her two-month-old baby Angosom, she rushed out towards the shelter of a tree, but both she and the baby were hit by flying shrapnel from cluster bombs dropped by the Eritrean jet.

Gottom Mesale, a 27-year-old teacher, lying on his side on the bed next to her in Adigrat hospital, nursed back wounds suffered during the raid, which killed four and injured 30.

He was collecting the food distributed to people like himself displaced by the fighting when the bombs fell. "It was as if the skies were raining metal. I don't know why the Eritreans are doing this to us, but I do know that until they leave our land we are going to fight. If God allows it, I will take revenge for this cowardly attack."

The victims of this bombing raid on the village of Adigrat last Thursday were the latest civilian casualties in the border conflict, which threatens to escalate into all-out war.

Ethiopians are shaking their heads in disbelief. "This is bad news for Africa," a Western diplomat in the capital, Addis Ababa, said. "This conflict just doesn't make sense to anybody."

A taxi driver in Addis Ababa, throwing his newspaper in disgust through the open car window, said: "This fighting is beyond belief. Have we not suffered enough already through 30 years of war?"

As the conflict threatens to escalate, the mood in Addis Ababa remains calm and life continues as normal. But to the north people speak of nothing but the fighting with their former ally in the civil war against the Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Kiros, from the village of Wukro, is 17 and afraid he may fail his exams next week. "I have not been studying since this conflict began. We are all very worried about this war and think of little else," he said.

Tamrat Yilma, a tour guide, has ferried tourists about northern Ethiopia for 19 years. Zalambessa, a frequent stopover, is now in Eritrean hands. "This town has always been in Ethiopia," he said. "Now the Eritreans will have us believe it is theirs."

Observers and participants alike wonder why the war is being fought. The disputed territory is a rocky outcrop reminiscent of a giant stone quarry. Eritrea and the northern Ethiopian areas bordering it are mostly rock, the land infertile and inhospitable.

Pride seems to be the primary motive. Tekle Mesfin, a water resources manager from the town of Adigrat, on the edge of the disputed area, said: "All Eritreans, from the president down to a common shoe cleaner, think that they are superior to us Ethiopians."

Nevertheless, Ethiopians are eager to stress that the Eritrean president, Isaias Afewerki, and not the Eritrean people are to blame.

"Isaias is a madman," said Aylew Kassa, a sergeant in the Ethiopian army whose wife is Eritrean. "We have no quarrel with the people of Eritrea."

A professor of contemporary history at Addis Ababa University suspects that the conflict is economically motivated.

"Isaias resents the economic development going on across the border in Ethiopia," he said. "He has seen one after another of his grandiose economic schemes fail and he wants to punish Ethiopia for its successes."

Ethiopia has enjoyed economic growth rates of about 6 per cent for the past five years. But both countries stand to lose economically from the conflict. Eritrea imports half its food from landlocked Ethiopia, which in turn brings in 70 per cent of its imports through the Eritrean port of Assab.

The diversion of this traffic from the port will cost Eritrea dear. Similarly, Ethiopia faces fuel and transport shortages as trucks are requisitioned to carry troops and supplies to the front.

Eritrea has rejected peace proposals which require it to withdraw its troops to their pre-May 6 positions, and Addis Ababa refuses to accept any form of mediation while Eritreans occupy Ethiopian land.

An Ethiopian government spokesman said: "There is no country in the world that negotiates under occupation." Mr Mesfin agrees. "If my neighbour wants to take over one of the rooms of my house, then I must kick him out before I start to talk with him again."



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOAO RIBEIRO

Cosby murder trial begins

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE trial begins in Los Angeles today of a young white man who allegedly killed the son of the country's most beloved television father, the black comedian Bill Cosby.

After last week's killing in Jasper, Texas, the case has potential for heightening racial tensions.

It will also test the recent poor record in Los Angeles in sensitive high-profile trials.

The prosecution maintains that Mikail Markhasev, a young Ukrainian immigrant with racist attitudes and drug problems, shot dead Ennis Cosby, a 27-year-old PhD student and teacher of dyslexic children.

He was the only son of the famous actor who played Dr Cliff Huxtable in The Cosby Show, which ran for years in the United States and in Britain.

But the evidence is flawed. Ennis Cosby died beside a Los Angeles freeway in January last year while changing a flat tyre on his Mercedes sports car in the early hours.

Mr Markhasev, then 18, allegedly approached and shot him once in the head. However, witnesses are unreliable and physical evidence is scant.

Minutes earlier Mr Markhasev allegedly threatened Stephanie Crane, aged 47, a screenwriter whom Cosby was on his way to visit and who lived nearby.

Cosby had telephoned her and asked her to drive out and shine her car lights for him while he changed the tyre. Before she could do so, a white man with a gun appeared at her car window.

She drove off and when she returned Cosby was dead.

However, she later failed to identify Markhasev in a police parade.

Before the murder, Mr Markhasev was with two people at a public telephone allegedly attempting to call a drug dealer.

They will testify that Mr Markhasev said he was going to hijack the Cosby car, and that he said on his return: "I killed the nigger."

This word is now so inflammatory in America that newspapers use only the initial and dots.

The accused is alleged to have been a habitual user of the "n-word" and to have kicked Cosby in the face after he fell dead.

The trial could become divisive if his racial attitudes were admitted as evidence. It would become especially divisive if he were acquitted.

The prosecution is handicapped by the criminal records of important witnesses, who could gain leniency by testifying against Mr Markhasev. One witness reportedly tipped off police to try to earn a \$100,000 (\$21,000) newspaper reward.

The judge has kept the pre-trial proceedings secret and will not allow television cameras in to court.

He is anxious to avoid the spectacle that marred the trial of O.J. Simpson, the famous sports star and actor who was acquitted of double murder by a black majority jury.

The Cosby trial will be closely covered by hundreds of reporters.

Bill Cosby is not expected to attend, "celebrity" trial to avoid a "party" trial.

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

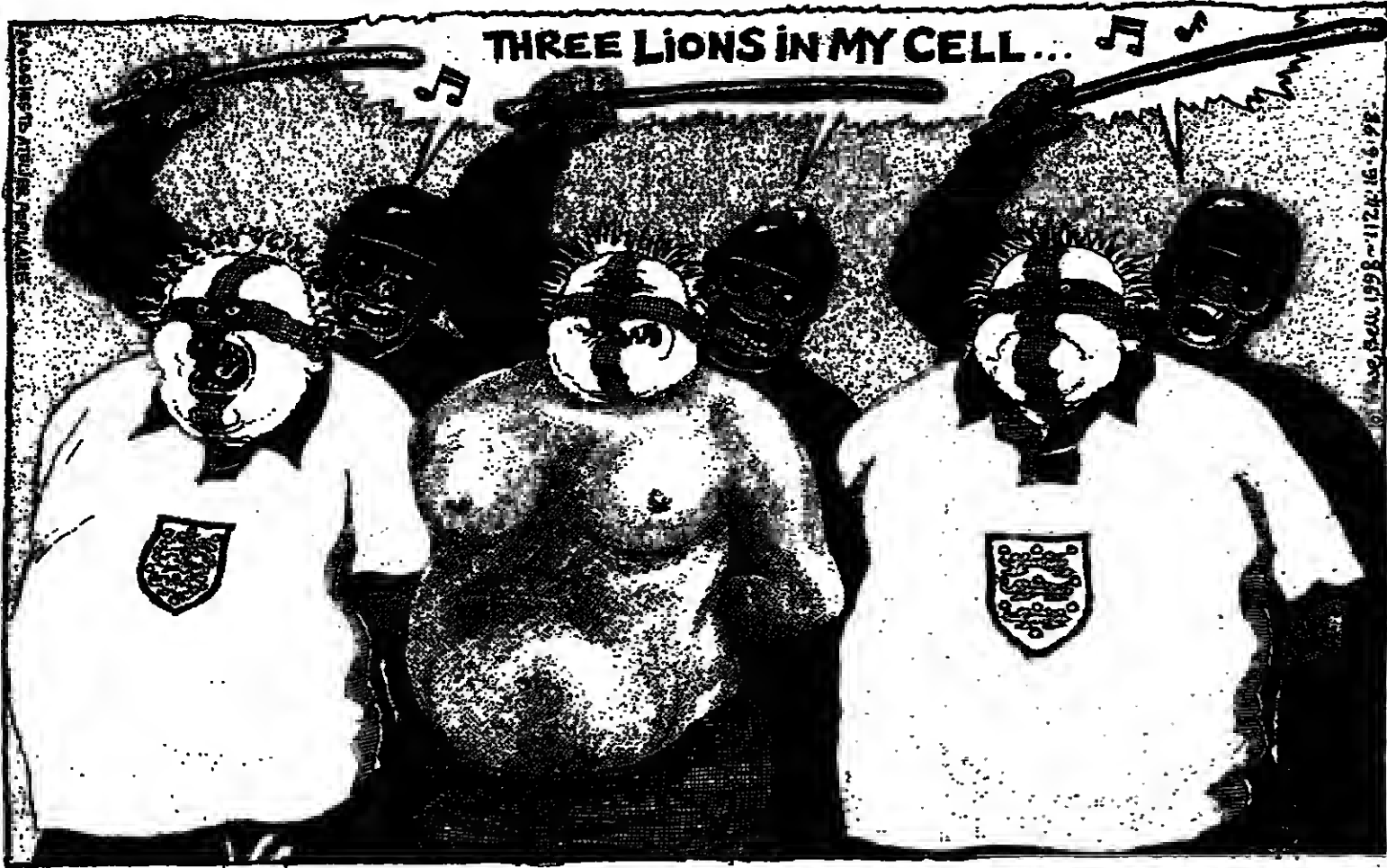
BY WAY of welcoming Ann Widdecombe to her new role as shadow health secretary, you will recall how Labour MP Audrey Wiles recently drew parliament's attention to a 1990 social services committee report on those who care for the elderly and infirm. Miss Widdecombe, she told the House, was alone in opposing it — refusing to recognise the term "carer". This, Ann assured the speaker, was "inaccurate". Audrey has now sent Ann a detailed aide-memoire. "On the issue of respite care," she writes, "you suggested that if someone wanted an afternoon free, they could get their next-door neighbour to come and sit with their relatives... You considered [those] who I know are the Guardian, and I know you're mischief-making," she observes, "but I objected to the report because it was just a poorly costed, long wish-list." Say what you will about Ann, we love the feisty old bird, and would be happy to sit with her till the cows come home.

TODAY'S Andrew Mackinlay fact — part of our month-long campaign to land the fearless independence MP for Thurrock — concerns his interests outside parliament. To get a way from it all, Andrew likes to visit first world war battlefields in France and Belgium.

DAYTIME television has been rocked by the behaviour of topical debate show host Robert Kilroy-Glenn. The former Labour MP — so long admired for his ability to reduce studio audiences to frenzied pantomimists while remaining singularly unflappable himself — last week suffered a surprise lapse in sangfroid which found him slapping columnist AA Gill about the face, in a Fulham Road jewellers. "I grabbed him by the upper arm and held it very hard so he didn't walk away," Kilroy told the London Evening Standard. "I said: 'I think we've got to have a little conversation. You can see the whites of my eyes now — why don't you say those things to my face?' and a tussle ensued. The incident stemmed from remarks Gill made about Kilroy in the press, though neither can recall what they were. "Having to write about Kilroy is bad enough," Gill suggests, "but having to remember what he's written about him is beyond the pale." The only dignified way to sort this ugly spat out is to have a live head-to-head on another daytime programme. Yesterday we rang the Vanessa Show, to ask if Miss Feltz would play host to "What an interesting idea!" a spokeswoman says. "Could you put that in writing and I'll send your message to Vanessa." Consider it done.

IN A fascinating essay in the Sunday Times Mohammed Al-Fayed has voiced his thoughts on the mysteries surrounding Diana's death. "The ship of state sails on in majesty having dropped its unwanted passengers," he writes cryptically. "I am not paranoid, I just see things as they are." The diary, too, endeavours to see things as they are, and is intrigued by a possible clue in a memo from Her Majesty's Royal Mail to all members of its junior collectors club. It concerns a special Diana tribute page to be inserted into members' 1998 stamp album: "You may even like to insert it," suggest the powers that be, "between the 'Endangered Species' and the 'Queen's Beasts' pages." No one, it seems, can be placed above suspicion. Mr Fayed puts it best: "Have you noticed how some people are smiling more often these days?"

THE June meeting of Bradwell Parish Council went well. "Planning matters," reports the Derbyshire Times, "included an application from Peak District National Park for the launch of hand-gliders and para-gliders using a portable winch at Bradwell Moor." All that remains is to find a candidate with the right throwing action.



Before long, the IRA simply has to start handing in some weapons

Hugo Young



THE Northern Ireland peace agreement depended on the breaking of conventions that most elected governments cherish to a fault. Chief among the violators were Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam. In a good cause, they adjusted the norms of both law and public morality. Having seen what had to be done, they courageously did it. They treated with terrorists, sought the approval of jailed murderers for what they wanted, and rode with ruthless clarity over a Unionist veto that had imposed itself for decades on governments either too weak or too bound to resist it.

The agreement was a victory for momentum. Two referendums then showed that both parts of Ireland overwhelmingly favoured the product of these manoeuvres, and the sense of exultation has continued. The Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, providing for the early release of prisoners, is on its way through the Commons, defended by the same political logic that has swept aside as pettifogging any of the objections which a legalist might make.

The objections, however, deserve a hearing. In the minds of many people, early release of paramilitary prisoners was supposed to be woven round the de-commissioning of paramilitary weaponry. But the present Bill carefully does not make de-commissioning a precondition of the release programme. This is left instead to the judgment of Dr Mowlam, who can decide whether the IRA and others are "co-operating fully" with the de-commissioning process.

It is not the IRA alone who are the pledge Mr Blair wrote out by hand to secure the referendum result, but one which has to be accepted, apparently, by

cause this is a good deal, isn't it? The spokesmen for nationalists take the proposition further. An exasperated John Hume speaks of de-commissioning as "a major distraction", while Gerry Adams and Mitchell McLaughlin openly regard the demand for it as an act of sabotage. On these pages, Kevin Toolis, a respected scholar-journalist, said that any demand for de-commissioning would "guarantee the re-emergence of republican terrorism, murder and butchery". The untrammeled possession of weapons, and the saving of the IRA from the humiliation of surrendering them, were it seems, necessary expedients for keeping Adams in control.

The violence is what counts, say these critics of the elementaries. If the violence has ended, what matter that the instruments of violence remain, rotting and rusting in the hands of an army that is sworn not to use them and which has, in any case, not been defeated? Why disturb the demons by demanding an act of humiliation, when the essence of the matter, the deal, has been secured? The language of the impending statute confers on the Secretary of State a disturbing discretion to permit this philosophy to become the reigning orthodoxy — always assuming that the ceasefire, on which everything depends, continues to prevail.

For the argument is not merely contingent or temporary. It evidently foresees circumstances in which de-commissioning should be demanded, or at any rate no counterweight, such as the pledge Mr Blair wrote out by hand to secure the referendum result, but one which has to be accepted, apparently, by

sloning must all, apparently, be left to the will of the terrorist, for fear, as Kevin McNamara put it in the Commons last week, that "an increase in violence" might break out. There are three reasons for a supporter of the Good Friday deal to view this submissive attitude with scepticism. The first is that it flies in the face of the agreement, which committed "all participants" to "total disarmament" within two years. Sinn Féin was party to that, and the IRA is Sinn Féin's army. If Mr Adams, signing for Sinn Féin, was serious, de-commissioning cannot be delayed on the pleas grounds that it's a distraction, or under the rightness claim that the IRA didn't lose. The precise modalities for de-commissioning will be published by the end of this month. They will specify a phased, inviolable process, with a time-limit. Whatever weapons the IRA has, they will be laid down, and the IRA will be required to provide, in preparation on any grounds surely cannot be humoured by a responsible British cabinet.

SECOND, any sense that this might happen will carry serious penalties on the ground. The Unionist vote for the deal, the marching season beckons, and the assembly elections take place next week. The militant last-ditchery of Dr Paisley still has time to wreck the agreement if the Protestant vote panics itself into overturning, in effect, what it approved last month. The pretence that de-commissioning need not have explicit rules or a high priority presumes a faith in the goodwill of the paramilitaries which few students of Ulster's history could underwrite. Unless Mo Mowlam's response to the Tory amendments to the Bill reassures them, teetering

Unionists will vote for at least semi-wreckage at Stormont. The amendments, beneamed as a break with bi-partisanship, are an act of responsible and necessary opposition, which should goad the cabinet, if not to accept them, at least to make conditionality more emphatic.

But third, the reverence for republican sensitivities is a mite excessive. Ulster Unionists aren't alone in looking for proof of compliance. What happened on Good Friday is supposed to have been the transformation of a war strategy into a peace strategy. It was designed as a very big deal, the biggest for 50 years. It was an avowal that "only democratic and peaceful means" would hitherto be deployed that "acts of violence or preparation for violence" would be renounced: that "co-operating fully" with de-commissioning was a sworn promise. Yet John Hume and others suggest that to demand categorical evidence of this is to breach some kind of sacred covenant.

No one is proposing complete and immediate laying-down of paramilitary weapons. No one can compel the laying-down of any weapons at all. But gradual handovers, perhaps informally paralleled by British army force-reductions, are a reasonable and practical demand. They need to be publicly certified by the de-commissioning authority, and ought to be argued for, in moderation, if these people are serious, by both Mr Hume and Mr Adams. It is unacceptable to regard de-commissioning as a threat to the honour of republicanism, and intolerable to think of Mo Mowlam as an accomplice in this delusion: another triumph of pragmatic rule-breaking.

It seems that the Football Intelligence Unit, which

were split into obvious sides and they were mental. Like passengers on a boat, some of us will fight with each other until another boat comes along allowing us to fight with them instead.

Obviously it can't be said of everybody in England, the violence is caused by a minority. But that does not reduce the nation's responsibility to the café owner in Marseille who had her place smashed up.

It seems that the Football Intelligence Unit, which

has spent two years preparing for yesterday's game against Tunisia, is useless. So it has the name of every "Category C" supporter, the so-called "generals of hate", neatly filed. So the British police are the best at controlling football violence in the world. So tell that to the blood-soaked Tunisian fan on the front of yesterday's Daily Star who looked deeply unhappy under a banner headline "England fan's throat is slit". Tell that to the English fan who actually did have his throat cut.

The only way football violence will ever be wiped out in England is for the nation to take collective responsibility for what happened on Sunday night. Let the team be sent home, the nation in disgrace. Let the country take that body-blow to its pride and then see if this so-called "hooliganism" survives.

The Sussex mystery

Paul Foot



COLIN WALLACE, a former army information officer in Northern Ireland, was very sorry he couldn't be in court last Friday for the astonishing climax of the case of Patrick Nicholls. The two men met many years ago in Lewes prison and discussed their strangely similar predicaments. Patrick Nicholls had been convicted of murdering an old lady after a Home Office pathologist had declared, as his first opinion, that she had died of natural causes (a heart attack). Colin Wallace had been convicted of killing his friend, an antique dealer called Jonathan Lewis, after a Home Office pathologist had declared, as his first opinion, that Lewis had died of natural causes (drowning). In both cases the pathologist changed his mind.

In the Nicholls case, a Dr Johnson, now dead, decided that the old lady had died from injuries caused by a blow to her face. This looked bad for Patrick Nicholls, who visited the old lady on the day she died. In the Wallace case, Dr Iain West decided that Lewis had been knocked out by a peculiar karate-style blow to the bridge of the nose with the heel of a hand, and then dumped in the river Arun. This looked bad for Wallace, especially when newspapers suggested during his trial that Wallace was an expert in unarmed combat, which he wasn't. Both cases were in West Sussex, and in both cases the senior detective in charge of the murder inquiry was Gordon Harrison, who has since retired.

Nicholls and Wallace combined in prison to protest their innocence and lobby the authorities for their release, but to no avail. Wallace served six years; Patrick Nicholls 23. The coincidences continued. In 1996, Wallace's conviction was quashed after new and overwhelming expert evidence reduced the "karate-style blow" theory to ruins.

Last week, Nicholls's conviction was quashed after expert evidence proved that the notion that the old lady died from a blow to her face was "grossly misleading and has no scientific basis whatsoever".

Two such similar cases in the same county in the space of six years call, surely, for an immediate and open inquiry. The Police Complaints Authority refused both men an investigation in the past. They could and should put that right at once.

NOTHING DELIGHTS a journalist more than the

revival of a spiked story. So I had special cause for rejoicing last week when I read Jeffrey Archer's trenchant reply in the Evening Standard to a piece I had written about him some weeks earlier. When I submitted the piece, I was urged where possible to describe Archer as a "liar". I urged caution. To show that someone has said something untrue in no way proves he is a liar. He could be mistaken. Or he could (as I've often thought about Archer) passionately believe that the baldersdash he is talking is the truth. The L-word never appeared. Now, thanks to Lord Archer, the matter can no longer be in any doubt. In 1987, when I was a columnist on the Daily Mirror, I was sent a document from Simpsons store, Toronto, which appeared to be an unsigned statement from a Jeffrey Archer to the effect that he had taken three suits worth \$540 without permission. I wrote to Archer asking him about it. Back came the reply signed in Archer's fair hand: "I was not involved in any such incident".

I had a mass of other evidence backing the story, but no certain proof. Could I publish anyway? The editor of the Daily Mirror, Richard Stott, rightly concluded we could not. The great man's word had to be accepted. The story disappeared. But not forever.

Now, 11 years later, in the Evening Standard, Lord Archer says he was detained in Toronto on suspicion of stealing suits.

It was all a misunderstanding, he says, which was quickly cleared up (though he forgot to mention he was taken to a police station). But that isn't the point. Most people can tell the difference between a) "I was not involved in any such incident" and b) "I was involved in such an incident". And if an important person says a) to his lawyer and to a national newspaper knowing that the truth is b) he is, well, a liar.

THERE'S BEEN a lot of speculation about whether or not a Queen's Birthday honour for Richard Branson was blocked, but the answer is in the Honours List itself. One of only three new life peers is Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, which paid out such enormous sums to Richard Branson in the famous "dirty tricks" libel action. An honours list which includes the dynamic chairman of the company admitting dirty tricks and the dynamic chairman of the company against which the dirty tricks were directed would be embarrassing, even for New Labour.

There's no excuse for the football rioting. We must take responsibility

Send England home

Ruaridh Nicoll

GLENN HODDLE believes England will treat the rest of the world's opposition much as his team treated Tunisia yesterday, and go on to win the World Cup.

If the England manager's optimism turns out to be fact, there can be no doubt the two Tonys — Banks and Blair — will stand proudly by, ready to tell us that the combined efforts of this happy nation have raised the trophy over St George's head.

For the moment — and for how much longer we wait to see — the England's team's progression can be traced through the smoke and wreckage of its fans' rampages. "It is the actions of the moronic minority that ruin the reputation of English supporters," says sports minister Banks. Vic-

tory or failure on the pitch will be a cause of national joy or despair, but violence on the streets, it seems, remains merely the domain of those few, therefore very few, who should be despised.

While the nation worries about whether we will lose the chance to host the 2006 contest, many of the French want England's team to be sent home now. I think they have a point.

Who are these violent few if not the English? "I've come here for the football and the festival and I've been teared and I can't even walk around my own town because of these [English] bastards," one French national spat on Sunday night. Dressed in the white bowler hats the Sun handed out, the sweaty mob who smashed up Marseille are nobody else but England's responsibility.

What is it in the national

character that brings on this mob violence, this need that made one fan shout, "This is what the World Cup is all about" as he attacked some foreigners? There have been plenty of football games played already in this festival and an appropriately festive atmosphere.

What is it in the national character that brings on this mob violence? sphere remained until England appeared.

Recently a glut of football books have been reaching the shelves, in which the nice friendly universe of Nick Hornby's Fever Pitch gives place to portrayals of an ugly underworld.

John King, who wrote

The Football Factory about violence on and off the terraces, has just published England Away, a three-fold tale of English violence in history could underwrite. Unless Mo Mowlam's response to the Tory amendments to the Bill reassures them, teetering

Mr King's books are fiction, but like all the best work they display an in-depth knowledge of the world. Dougie and Eddy Brimmon, whose book Derby Days was published in March, do not have Mr King's literary abilities but show insights all the same. "At my school, you were either Blues or Villa. Nothing else. No Man United, Liverpool or any of that shit. Blues or Villa. At break times, the games

were split into obvious sides and they were mental. Like passengers on a boat, some of us will fight with each other until another boat comes along allowing us to fight with them instead.

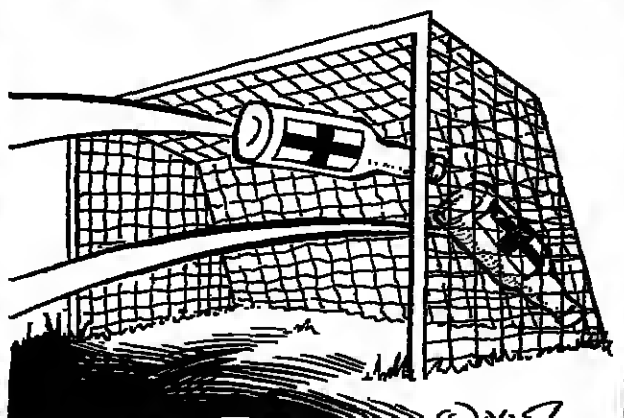
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has spent two years preparing for yesterday's game against Tunisia, is useless. So it has the name of every "Category C" supporter, the so-called "generals of hate", neatly filed. So the British police are the best at controlling football violence in the world. So tell that to the blood-soaked Tunisian fan on the front of yesterday's Daily Star who looked deeply unhappy under a banner headline "England fan's throat is slit". Tell that to the English fan who actually did have his throat cut.

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سكنا من الامل

John Marriott

Goodness behind the bars

DURING his career as a prison governor, John Marriott, who has died of a heart attack aged 51, never had an easy posting. All of the major prisons in which he served were either inherently difficult to manage or facing problems. Colleagues will remember a humane and innovative man, but he will be publicly remembered as the governor who was removed from his command at the maximum security Parkhurst prison on the Isle of Wight after the escape of three high-security prisoners on January 3, 1995.

Immediately before that event, the public credibility of the Prison Service had been shattered by a series of incidents. These included the escape of high-security prisoners from Whitehouse prison and the suicide of Frederick West at Winson Green jail in Birmingham.

It was to be damaged even more by the distasteful pub-

lic wrangle between the then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, and the then director-general of the Prison Service Derek Lewis, who, with unseemly haste, appeared to wish to place the responsibility for what had gone wrong at Parkhurst at the door of John Marriott. Yet immediately after removing him from his post, Lewis wrote to all prison governors: "John Marriott is rightly noted and appreciated for his dedication, humanity, courage and innovation." That was true.

Marriott had been appointed to Parkhurst in 1990. He introduced new activities, raised the public profile of the Prison Service — encouraging innovative work with problematic prisoners — and won agreement for a major rebuilding programme for the 19th-century buildings. This was to prove his downfall.

He had seen the need for improved perimeter security,

and frequently requested a perimeter geophone system, regarded as standard for any high security prison. But he had to accept a plan in which this was part of the refurbishment, taking place while Parkhurst remained an operational prison. Marriott was governing a maximum security prison within a building site. When things went wrong, he was to find that the buck stopped with him.

Marriott was born in Wiltshire and educated at Christ's Hospital, Horsham. He would recount how, as a new boy, all his clothing was taken from him and he was left hanging on grimly to his underwear; he was given a number, which he never forgot, Middleton B40. The humiliation of this stayed with him all his life, as he watched prisoners undergoing a similar experience.

He studied at Hull University and spent some vacations working on North Sea trawlers; later he loved row-



Marriott... innovative

ing and sailing around the Isle of Wight. That love of the sea was a clue to his personality. He was warm and extrovert, yet independent and sure of his own decisions.

He joined the Prison Service at the end of the 1960s as a housemaster at Gaynes Hall board, but after a spell at Eastchurch open prison in Kent, he left the service — uncertain that he could

spend his life locking up other human beings. But within a year, in 1975, he had returned to work in Birmingham's Winson Green prison; there was more to the prison service, he concluded, than an ability to deprive people of their liberty.

In 1978 he was promoted and transferred to Hull, then recovering from a major riot. Those who worked with him talk of his determination to find good in the most difficult prisoner, even when at the receiving end of the contents of a full chamber pot. His combination of firmness and a relaxed style made him a role model and served him well in difficult staff situations.

The 1980s were troubled times for the Prison Service. In 1983, Marriott became one of the youngest governors ever appointed when he took charge at Nottingham. Two years later he was promoted to governor at Lewes. Staff, dissatisfied with proposed

changes in their conditions of service, took industrial action, which led to prisoner riots at Lewes and elsewhere, a situation he handled with courage. In 1988 he began a two-year stint at Prison Service headquarters.

Then came Parkhurst. The aftermath of that episode stayed with Marriott until his untimely death. After a further spell at headquarters he left the Prison Service to head the Isle of Wight's NHS mental healthcare unit.

Wherever Marriott lived, he became involved in his local community. He was an inspiration to his children, and he encouraged them all to question everything. He survived by his wife Mari-anna, three daughters by his first marriage to Terry, and one stepdaughter.

Andrew Coyle

John Randolph Marriott, prison governor, born January 4, 1947; died June 11, 1998

Sir William Bentley

The discreet charm of the embassy

SIR WILLIAM BENTLEY, who has died aged 71, had a happy and successful career in the diplomatic service, becoming ambassador to the Philippines, high commissioner in Malaysia, and finally ambassador to Norway. It can also be said that he was a man who was not easily deterred by the difficulties that he did do something that he loved: salmon fishing in Scotland.

Bill Bentley was too young to fight in the second world war but did military service for three years before going to Wadham College, Oxford, where he was awarded first-class honours in history. He entered the foreign service in 1952 and was first sent to Tokyo as a Japanese language student. By then he was already married to his Danish wife, Karen, by whom he was to have two sons and three daughters.

Much of his diplomatic career was spent dealing with Far Eastern affairs, whether in the Foreign Office or abroad. I first met Bill when we served together in the British mission to the United Nations in New York in 1961. He was one of the team of very able young men and women in their thirties working under Sir Patrick Dean, nearly all of whom later reached high rank. I remember him as capable, cheerful and dependable. I thought at the time that he might aspire to being ambassador to Japan — and so indeed he might have if the timing had been lucky.

As things turned out he ended his career in Norway (1983-87) and was, I think, very pleased to be appointed ambassador to a country so closely allied with ours and so friendly to every Norwegian. Furthermore, the discovery and exploitation of North Sea oil had by then made Norway of considerable economic importance. Besides, whenever official duties allowed there was the salmon fishing, even in retirement Bill used to fish in Norway at least once a year.

I always think of Bill as a happy extrovert: a sportsman (golf shooting and skiing as well as fishing), good at making friends, easy going, not intellectual but intelligent, sensible and shrewd. These

qualities enabled him to cope with some difficult periods, notably when, as high commissioner, he was in Malaysia at a time when anti-British feeling was intense. Infinite patience and tolerance had to be exercised while waiting for the storm to blow itself out.

In Norway there were no such difficulties. Bill learnt to speak Norwegian, albeit with a slight Danish accent (derived no doubt from Karen), and from the beginning found himself very much at home. He and Karen were very popular with the Norwegians as well as with the British community and the embassy staff. He was deservedly knighted in 1985.

In retirement Bill took on several jobs connected mainly with Norway, but his main activity was as part-time chairman of the Society of Pension Consultants. He had no previous knowledge of the business but was a capable man who knew how to take the chair at meetings and also



Bentley... patience

knew his way around Whitehall. From all accounts, he performed admirably.

Bill's main enjoyment in retirement was, however, his family. They were very close-knit and he particularly delighted in the assembly at their Wimbledon house at Christmas of the impressive number of children and grand-children, of whom he and Karen were rightly proud. Bill was a very good man.

Sir Alan Campbell

Sir William Bentley, diplomat, born February 15, 1927; died June 10, 1998

Verdict of his peers: 'He bounced, he buzzed, he stirred and he achieved'

CHRISTOPHER Scott (president of the Prison Governors' Association) writes: While Michael Howard was described as having "something of the night about him", John Marriott was a man of the day. He believed in his fellow men and women and understood what it really should mean to treat people with humanity, treating all people as if they mattered. Perhaps that is why John was such a good prison governor. All the people in his care mattered to him, staff and inmates. It explains why his friends and colleagues were so appalled at his treatment following the escape from Parkhurst.

The Prison Service is soci-

ety's ultimate means of dealing with failure. As a prison governor, John Marriott was a man who was not to fail. His tragedy was that when his prison failed, his trust in his fellow man contributed to its failure. He was first let down by those that he trusted and later by others who ducked their own responsibility by sacrificing him.

BOB Johnstone writes: John Marriott's premature death is the closing chapter in a dis-astrophic career. Having joined the Prison Service as one of the last graduate entrants, he gave his life to it — literally. He brought to his work inde-

pendence, energy and de-light — virtues all too rare in prisons. He bounced, he buzzed, he stirred and he achieved.

I had known him as a friend for 15 years when, after he had moved to Parkhurst, he invited me into his home to become a psychiatrist for the special unit there. I would never have even contemplated working for anyone else in the Prison Service. He changed my life and I shall be forever grateful to him for it. He guided and protected me when I most needed it.

At Parkhurst we held countless seminars struggling to think through the best way forward for prisons in a civilised society. We little knew how soon po-

litical expediency would crush all our dreams — in John's case both cruelly and barbarically. It broke his heart.

We must learn to cherish our John Marriotts — society knows only too well how to betray them. Greeting him so he never could tell his side of the story was like seeing a restless spirit. His best memorial would be for those who share his vision to work unstintingly, as he did, to bring it about.

STEPHEN Preece writes: John Marriott did not hide behind his desk or his subordinates. Always keen to meet inmates on level terms in their cells, he was determined that his

prisons should not be places of fear. He led his staff back into Lewes jail — where I was writer in residence — after the riot of 1986 and, rather than just doling out punishment, awarded extra sausages to the lifers who had not joined in the destruction.

He was particularly effective in gaining the trust of young offenders and neutralising their violence and anger. This humane approach earned him the respect of the inmates and galvanised normally time-serving staff into believing they were doing more than warehousing prisoners.

His methods were often unconventional. At Parkhurst, he allowed a home-

less ex-prisoner to live with him and his family. His libertarian ideas raised eyebrows, but his relaxed regime embodied the spirit of the Wolf Report, the recommendations of which have been criminally neglected by successive home secretaries.

When Michael Howard summarily dismissed him, he removed the one man who had the vision to modernise the prison system from within. Marriott's dilemma was later dramatised in Glyn Jenkins's hilarious TV film *A Very Open Prison* and Marriott's own account of these events was to be called *The Great Escape*. Society has not yet paid its debt to this brave and boyant man.

Birthdays

Lord Aberdare, chairman, the Football Trust, 79; Eileen Atkins, actress, 64; James Bolam, actor, 60; IA Gen Sir Thomas Boyd-Crampton, chairman, social security advisory board, 60; Julia Cole, psychosexual therapist, writer and agony aunt, 42; Howard Flight, Conservative MP, 60; Grant Fux, rugby player, 36; Paul Goggins, Labour MP, 45; Katharine Graham, proprietor, the Washington Post, 87; Tom Graveney, cricketer, 71; Prof

Harold Hanham, vice-chancellor, Lancaster University, 70; The Rt Rev David Konstant, Roman Catholic Bishop of Leeds, 58; Neil MacGregor, director, National Gallery, 52; Sir Ralph Robins, chairman, Rolls-Royce, 66; John Salt-ouse, actor, 47; Prof Erich Segal, classical scholar and screenwriter, 61; Phyllis Sellick, concert pianist, 87; David Whetton, managing director, the Philharmonia Orchestra, 44; Simon Williams, actor, 52.

Peggy Ann Wood

Play for the day

PEGGY Ann Wood, who has died aged 85, was a talented actress and for many years a much-admired influence on West Country theatre. She ran, with her late husband Ronald Russell, the Rapier Players at the cramped, ill-equipped Little Theatre in Bristol until its closure in the early 1960s.



Wood... gracious style

She is remembered with especial affection for the way, almost single-handedly at times when her husband and Lockwood West were drafted into the police war reserve, that she miraculously kept the theatre going in weekly rep. It was an extraordinary exercise of dedication and stamina, inhibited by casting problems as many of the male actors had gone into the services.

Peggy Ann and Ronald's

shoeing company survived as long as it did on integrity, artistic adventure — they put on dozens of premieres to encourage new writers — and professionalism, tinged with optimism. Dozens of actors, later to become famous, passed through the Rapier Players.

Malcolm Farquhar, later to be an artistic director in his own right, had just been invited out of the Army and was working as a reporter on the Western Daily Press in Bristol. Peggy Ann and Ronald trained him for 10 shillings a week and within six months he was being given juvenile leads.

Sir Michael Hordern was not alone in pinpointing his stay with them as among the most valuable of his professional life. He had worked in a production of *Othello* with Peggy Ann at the People's Palace in London; when next she met him in the street, he was out of work and frantic for another part. "Why not write to Ronnie?" she said. In no time, Hordern was playing Chekov in Bristol.

Peggy Ann herself played with acclaim in *The Cherry Orchard* and *A Doll's House* at the Rapier. She was inclined to be rather less confident with some modern parts, but she was a popular character actress, remembered particularly for her run in the sitcom *After Henry* with Prunella Scales.

With the postwar establishment of the Bristol Old Vic, the Little Theatre perhaps suffered by being seen as the cultural poor relation. Yet Peggy Ann and her husband never complained. There was a gracious, old-fashioned style about them. When at last the financial constraints made it impossible to continue, they bowed out without owing a penny to anyone. Their housekeeping had always been as conscientious as their artistic standards.

David Foot

Peggy Ann Wood, actress and theatre producer, born June 14, 1912; died May 30, 1998



McCook... 'perfectly combining American jazz and rhythm and blues influences with indigenous Jamaican forms'

Tommy McCook

Totally tropical sounds

IN 1964 the Cuban-born saxophonist Tommy McCook, who has died of pneumonia aged 71, became a founding member of the Skatalites. A band that lasted little more than a year, it brought together some of the greatest musicians Jamaica has ever produced, and made instrumentals in Kingston that have become the definitive ska recordings — perfectly combining American jazz and rhythm and blues influences with indigenous Jamaican forms like mento, revival church and hurru drumming.

McCook's career lasted more than five decades, during which time he became one of Jamaica's leading and most creative musicians. He learned the tenor sax-

ophone, flute and music theory in 1938 as a pupil at the Alpha Boys School, which, run by Catholic nuns and drawing its pupils from the Kingston ghetto, imparted a strong discipline alongside their teaching. By 1944 he was playing saxophone professionally, firstly in Eric Dean's Orchestra, and later with Roy Cohn's band. Both orchestras played jazz and swing, using the "books" of the likes of Count Basie and Woody Herman.

As a convinced bebopper McCook played alongside trumpeter Sonny Bradshaw in the late 1940s and, in the early 1950s, was a member of the Jamaican All-Stars. After eight years on the Bahamas tourist hotel circuit, he returned to Kingston in 1962. McCook cut sides for the

sound system operators Clement "Sir Coxson" Dodd and Arthur "Duke" Reid in the new ska style. Then came the Skatalites, after which he went on to lead the Super-sax for the rival producer Duke Reid. The band became the defining instrumental aggregation of rock steady — the soul-influenced style that followed ska from 1966.

McCook also played on hits by Alton Ellis, the Techniques, the Paragons and Justin Hinds and the Dominoes. In the 1970s, McCook became a session musician, featuring on many classic roots records of the period — often as a member of studio bands like the Aggrovators, the Revolutionaries and the Professionals. His hard-toned tenor and agile flute also appeared

on reggae tracks by Bob Marley, the Mighty Diamonds, Yabby You and the Prophets, Johnnie Clarke and many more.

But via producers like Bunny Lee, Vivian Jackson and Glen Brown, he released his own instrumental albums. He also participated in the 1984 Skatalites reunion tour both in Jamaica and Britain while Island Records released the acclaimed *Return of the Big Guns* album. A revitalised version of the Skatalites has toured and recorded regularly, although illness precluded McCook from participation in the last two years.

Steve Barrow

Tommy McCook, musician, born 1927; died May 5, 1998

A Country Diary

DORSET All I knew about Brownsea Island was that the hero of *Marek* held his first camp there and that the pastorian Gothic church looking down from a ferry landing. An incongruous feature is the multitude of peacocks. The owner also made elaborate formal gardens round the big house and imported shiploads of manure to treat the sandy soil. Rhododendrons, like peacocks, found conditions favourable and in places threaten to overwhelm all other vegetation. Exotic trees and shrubs combine with native growth to create jungles where English red squirrels and Japanese Silka deer are equally glad to hide. In another clearing there are signs of the commercial cultivation of daffodils, a more successful venture than the pottery, which has left little mark. The period of neglect encouraged wading birds to visit the lagoon where pasture once existed. Now, the National Trust seeks to manage the

Island in a balanced way. The first clearing you come to is like a wide, sloping village green, with picturesque Victorian Gothic church looking down from a ferry landing. An incongruous feature is the multitude of peacocks. The owner also made elaborate formal gardens round the big house and imported shiploads of manure to treat the sandy soil. Rhododendrons, like peacocks, found conditions favourable and in places threaten to overwhelm all other vegetation. Exotic trees and shrubs combine with native growth to create jungles where English red squirrels and Japanese Silka deer are equally glad to hide. In another clearing there are signs of the commercial cultivation of daffodils, a more successful venture than the pottery, which has left little mark. The period of neglect encouraged wading birds to visit the lagoon where pasture once existed. Now, the National Trust seeks to manage the

JOHN VALLINS

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

EUROPE'S longest suspension bridge, opened by Queen Margrethe of Denmark at the weekend, does not link Denmark with Sweden, as the standfirst accompanying an article (page 20, June 13) claimed. The East Bridge, as it is known, is the first road link between eastern Denmark — the island of Zealand — and the Jutland peninsula, Denmark's western mainland.

THE ethnic Albanians fleeing Kosovo shown in a photograph (page 20, June 13) were riding mules, not donkeys, as the caption wrongly stated.

THE parliamentary sketch (page 2, June 12) suggested Gordon Brown was rather like a scout master "with a woggle round his neck." This is impossible; in the scouting fraternity, neckerchiefs are worn round the neck, and threaded through a woggle to keep them in place.

WE mistakenly printed a three-week old UK album and singles chart on the box office page of the Friday Review (page 29, June 12). This made nonsense of the accompanying commentary, which referred to the current charts.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may

contact the office of the *Readers' Editor* by telephoning 01753 353000, or by e-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk. *Spr. Monday to Friday: Suf. fac mail to Readers' Editor: The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3EE. Fax: 0171 239 5997. E-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk*

Death Notices

BROOKS, Bill, aged 82, died peacefully on June 10, after a long struggle against cancer. Former General Secretary Young Communist League, Ontario, Canada. Buried at St. John's Anglican Church, 1000 St. John's Road, Scarborough, Ontario. Family flowers accepted. Donations to St. John's Anglican Church, 1000 St. John's Road, Scarborough, Ontario. E-mail: brooks@guardian.co.uk

ROBERTSON, Geoffrey Tom, 82, died peacefully on June 10, after a long struggle against cancer. Former General Secretary Young Communist League, Ontario, Canada. Buried at St. John's Anglican Church, 1000 St. John's Road, Scarborough, Ontario. Family flowers accepted. Donations to St. John's Anglican Church, 1000 St. John's Road, Scarborough, Ontario. E-mail: robertson@guardian.co.uk

Births

WARNER, Kate (née Montgomery) and 250 353000, or by e-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

TRICKETT, Jack, 90th birthday greeting with our love Edna, Elizabeth, Betty, Chris, John and Robert. Born 1908. The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3EE. Fax: 0171 239 5997. E-mail: trickett@guardian.co.uk

سكرا من الاميل

Tuesday June 16 1998

11

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FinanceGuardian

10,000 managers to go as British Steel 'de-layers'

David Gow
Industrial Editor

BITISH Steel is to shed up to 10,000 jobs over the next four years as it accelerates plans to become the lowest-cost and most profitable producer in the world by "de-layering" swathes of middle managers.

The company, which reduced its workforce by 2,400 last year alone, with nearly all of the job losses among white-collar workers, wants to end the distinction between shop-floor and management by retraining its productive staff to operate and manage their plants.

Sir Brian Moffat, British Steel chairman, yesterday refused to quantify the scale of planned redundancies, but said it would be significant, as he unveiled pre-tax profits of £215 million for 1997-98, down from £451 million in the previous year. He said the strong pound had wiped more than £500 million off earnings.

The 30 per cent decline in earnings was actually better than City analysts predicted, and British Steel shares rose 4p to close at 138p, despite fears that the Far East crisis and a flood of cheap imports would continue to depress profits this year.

Sir Brian made it plain that, as company strategy was based on sterling remaining at its present level — 33 per cent higher than it was two years ago when British Steel made record £1.1 billion profits — the "radical manpower review" would be accelerated in the coming years.

"Our objective is to be the lowest-cost producer in the world by a bit, which is where we were three years ago before the pound took off," he said.

The aim, he added, was to achieve the kind of operation seen at the two US plants in which British Steel has an interest.

When one of these, Trico, becomes fully operational later this year it will require just 300 employees to produce two million tonnes of steel a year. Though Sir Brian said that the American plants were not comparable with the UK operations, they provided a benchmark in terms of the "management interface".

"We are looking for a far more direct system in which the various levels of middle management are significantly eroded and we have a multi-skilled workforce," he said.

The shop-floor operators, working in a team, would for the first time decide on such issues as safety and efficiency at their plants.



Managing without bosses... Computer-controlled operation has seen productivity at British Steel's modernised plants rise from 14 man hours per tonne two decades ago to 2.4 man hours per tonne

Under its drive to harmonise working conditions for blue- and white-collar workers, British Steel has already persuaded its managers to work a 36.5 hour basic week, 90 minutes longer than before, for higher pay. The company is offering its productive staff much higher pay to learn new skills and responsibilities.

Keith Brookman, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the main union, said that employees were prepared to go along with the company's plans "to become the prime player in Europe, where there's 20 million tonnes of excess capacity, in terms of productivity".

He said: "Underpinning the union position is that we don't accept any hard redundancies and we expect the

chairman to honour his side of the bargain that there will be no major closures."

Sir Brian said only a "few bits and pieces here and there" might go.

The British Steel chairman said it was unlikely that the group would invest in the Far East in the short term, but it was still looking for acquisitions there and saw Europe and North America as presenting profitable prospects.

The company, he added, was actively looking at Poland and Romania.

He ruled out taking equity in west European businesses such as Cockerill, the Belgian steel producer now being courted by other European groups interested in taking on some of the 79 per cent stake owned by the regional Walloon government.

Cockerill might have interested us, but not on the terms being offered, and that's to guarantee jobs at Antwerp," he said. "Our busi-

ness is about profits and shareholder value. If it's jobs before shareholder interests the answer is 'no'... It simply prolongs the agony."

That is the position Sir Brian Moffat, British Steel's current chairman, wants to regain with the accelerated radical manpower review he disclosed yesterday in an accompaniment of repeated warnings about the uncertain trading environment now and in the years ahead. He was certain of one thing: the British workforce producing the hoped-for earnings will be even slimmer than Sir Ian envisaged in his wildest dreams.

Biting the bullet

WHEN the late Ian MacGregor became chairman of British Steel 18 years ago, he had a dream: of being able to go into a modernised plant, shoot straight with a rifle and see the bullet exit the other end of the mill without hitting a single person, writes David Gow.

Today, in plants like Llanwern, south Wales — where the bulk of production staff work in air-conditioned offices behind computer screens — his dream is almost a reality but, thanks to the vagaries of international currency markets and steel prices, there will be even fewer targets to hit in years to come.

British Steel's UK workforce fell from 166,400 on the eve of a 13-week strike in 1980 — before Mr MacGregor took over the then state-owned concern — to 54,400 ten years later. It now stands at 39,100. But output, at around 15 million tonnes a year, is only marginally lower than it was two decades ago as the number of man-hours required per tonne has fallen from more than 14 to about three.

The improvement in productivity may have been constant but the rise and fall of the pound ensured that profits have been on a roller-coaster ride. On taking over in 1980, Mr MacGregor inherited record losses of £1.2 billion but in 1989, by then in private hands, British Steel earned £733 million.

Four years later, with Britain gripped by recession, the pre-tax losses were £21 million. A further three years on, buoyed by low-inflation growth at home and a competitive edge to sterling, the company could boast of being the lowest-cost producer in the world — a claim it has since lost.

That is the position Sir Brian Moffat, British Steel's current chairman, wants to regain with the accelerated radical manpower review he disclosed yesterday in an accompaniment of repeated warnings about the uncertain trading environment now and in the years ahead. He was certain of one thing: the British workforce producing the hoped-for earnings will be even slimmer than Sir Ian envisaged in his wildest dreams.

Notebook

Goldman greed goes before a fall



Edited by
Lisa Buckingham

THERE was an awful inevitability that Goldman Sachs, the mighty Wall Street partnership, would decide to follow the herd and convert itself into a limited company.

The issue has cropped up six or seven times before in the more-or-less illustrious 130 years since the bank's foundation, but never before had the impetus towards conversion seemed so strong.

At a time when even mediocre executives in the investment banking world can pull in seven figure sums each year there were quite legitimate concerns that the lower orders would defect if they were not showered with the riches enjoyed by their peers.

By dividing the spoils as widely as possible Goldman should be able to ensure it keeps people it most prizes. On a rather more humble scale, a wealth and decision-making trickle-down could resemble the model of our own John Lewis partnership.

It is totally unconvincing, however, to argue that raising about \$5 billion (£3 billion) by selling 10 to 15 per cent of the business will make one iota's difference to the strategy Goldmans is likely to follow. The investment bank is already a leader in mergers & acquisitions work, underwriting and share dealing. It is also an increasing powerhouse in asset management and will look even stronger if the rumours are true that Merrill Lynch and its new acquisition, Mercury Asset Management, are not getting along so well.

If Goldman will not risk becoming a takeover target by floating a majority of its shares, it will raise too little to give it more than a puny punch in today's world of financial services acquisitions.

Some people should conclude only two things: that greed — and on an heroic scale — has become such a factor among the Goldman partners that their concern to preserve the hugely successful partnership ethos of the bank has been completely overridden, and that, as world markets continued to tremble yesterday, it won't be long before we remember the day the Goldman partners called the top of the market as the day we should have sold out.

What they are really about is savings, and that means they will increasingly come head-to-head with banks, building societies and stock market vehicles as rivals for the nation's disposable pound.

Look only at the enormous potential offered by the transfer from the National Health Service to the private sector of care for old people (long term care insurance) or the state to the private sector for retirement living allowances (the stakeholder pension) or for a proportion of the putative Individual Savings Accounts. Who says FR isn't worth the candle?

Little wonder, insurers have decided that traditional insurance is about to become only a very small part of their business.

What they are really about is savings, and that means they will increasingly come head-to-head with banks, building societies and stock market vehicles as rivals for the nation's disposable pound.

Food court

THE news that Asda is planning to open drive-through restaurants illustrates how far the supermarket chains have come from stacking baked beans high and selling them cheap. And it raises the question of how much more powerful they can get without taking

over our lives. In fact, Asda is merely extending its established operation, which already sells 24 million pizzas, five million curries and 780,000 bot chickens a year.

The restaurant trial, to be opened at Canterbury next month, will add a few extras and allow consumers to eat before, after or instead of shopping.

But the fact that this development is incremental demonstrates how far the supermarket offer already stretches. It explains how 40,000 square feet of selling space is barely enough to fit everything in these days, although supermarkets half that size looked over-ambitious as recently as the mid-1980s.

Now Asda, no doubt soon to be followed by Tesco and the others, wants to sell us the baked beans in a can, beans in curry sauce in a takeaway box ready for the microwave, and the same thing on a plate in the restaurant. It is a new interpretation of "ready meals", ready without the bother of taking them home to be warmed up.

The advantage to the supermarkets is higher margins. But there could be a downside — the further the grocers get away from grocery, the more volatile their business becomes.

Eating out is a good-times pastime. In harder times we still have to buy food, but we don't have to pay other people to cook it.

ABI confession

AGLOSSY *nostra culpa* plucked on to the desks of MPs yesterday from the Association of British Insurers. It is an attempt to paint the background to the pensions mis-selling disaster, to apportion blame and to update the people's representatives on what is being done to compensate those who have been wronged.

It comes at a time when the industry's compensation programme is moving from phase one (helping out the priority cases) to phase two (the less immediate cases, which may number two million).

It is clear that the ABI, which has always been quite a powerful lobbying force, is stepping up a gear in terms of its lobbying to senior politicians.

Little wonder. Insurers have decided that traditional insurance is about to become only a very small part of their business.

What they are really about is savings, and that means they will increasingly come head-to-head with banks, building societies and stock market vehicles as rivals for the nation's disposable pound.

Yen slide sends shares tumbling

Charlotte Duxbury

SHARES prices plummeted around the world yesterday amid fears that the recession in Japan could drag the rest of the world into an economic slump. The yen was also hit, sliding to an eight-year low against the dollar in the wake of Friday's news that Japanese output contracted in 1997 — the first year it fell since the second world war.

Shares in London were hit by Asian nerves with the FTSE-100 index losing more than 120 points at one stage before recovering to end the day at 5720, nearly 80 points down.

On Wall Street, the benchmark US index was down 117 points in afternoon trading, triggering curbs designed to check market instability.

European leaders meeting in Cardiff for the last summit of the British presidency warned that the Japanese economic crisis could infect otherwise healthy economies in Europe and the United States.

"The world economy is facing the biggest risk since the Latin America debt crisis," said a spokesman for the Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The yen reached its lowest level since August 1990. Analysts said the Japanese currency was heading towards 150 after US Treasury secretary

Robert Rubin last week appeared to rule out co-ordinated efforts to prop it up by the world's major economies.

"It's almost as if the United States is pushing Japan to the brink of collapse to force policy makers there into a more positive response," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at Japanese bank DKB.

The yen's slide unleashed ferocious pressures on the other Asian markets which compete with Japanese goods for export markets. The plummeting yen could trigger a devaluation of the Chinese yuan, with potentially devastating consequences for the rest of Asia.

"Japan is the root cause of everything that is going on in

the world economy at the moment," said Mr Lyons.

The French prime minister hinted yesterday that further falls in the yen could prompt the G7 countries to reconsider last week's decision not to intervene to prop up the currency.

"We need to rapidly weigh up the risks of the Japanese situation and collectively consider how to respond," said French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Figures out yesterday indicated the continuing weakness of the Japanese economy. The Japanese lower house yesterday approved a mini-budget to fund the first stage of a package of tax cuts.

Springer abandons Mirror bid

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

MORE than £111 million was wiped off the value of the Mirror Group yesterday after German publisher Axel Springer Verlag abandoned plans to bid for the group after deliberating for three weeks.

Springer — publisher of the rightwing German paper *Bild* — announced its decision after a board meeting yesterday. Shares in the Mirror Group immediately fell 11 per cent to 208.5p and the City predicts that they could go below 200p if no alternative bidder came forward.

But some analysts believe the subject of a rival offer. Leading contenders include a private buyer and the newspaper group Trinity, which had already discussed a merger with the Mirror.

The exclusive Barclay Brothers — owners of the European and Sunday Business — have also been rumoured as possible bidders.

The consensus in the City last night was that the Mirror now desperately needs a deal of some sort. Axel's retreat came in a terse three-line statement saying it had "completed an extensive review of all issues and will not be making an offer for the Mirror Group".

Expressing delight that the Germans had left the field and claiming it was good news for shareholders as it would allow the company to continue to deliver enhanced value.

Chief executive David Montgomery said of the Springer approach: "This always looked like an attempt to take control of Mirror Group on the cheap."

The market had been looking for a bid in the 275p-a-share range, although the Mirror board had not disguised its ambitions to achieve 300p. Both seem to have been way outside the range of Axel Springer.

One of the Mirror's top priorities is to get a new chairman in place quickly. Victor Blank, the chairman of Charterhouse Bank and a buyout specialist, is still seen as the most likely candidate. But the three-week siege of the Mirror by Springer has left the group in something of a limbo and investors made it clear yesterday they are looking for a clear explanation of where the group goes next.

In the meantime, its top management team has also been weakened by the unrelated, though badly timed, resignation last week of Kelvin MacKenzie as deputy chief executive. He is trying to put together a bid for Talk Radio with the help of Rupert Murdoch's News International.

Butler calls for society degrees

Liz Stuart

FORMER butler Michael Hardern has launched his latest campaign to float the Nationwide building society on the stock market with a call to turn every customer into a member of the House of Lords.

Mr Hardern, the driving force behind the push for Nationwide to become a bank, said in the voting papers sent out to Nationwide members over the past four days: "Every member of the public should want to be a customer of Nationwide plc and I want to see every customer a member of the House of Lords."

He calls for the creation of "a Nationwide Net University which could deliver degrees for £100" and calls for the O-level giveaway, even though the qualification no longer exists. He is also demanding the society's staff should receive windfalls worth up to £20,000 each, assuring them of job security.

Bob Goodall, co-ordinator of the Save our Building Societies campaign, yesterday called Mr Hardern a "social vandal". He said: "We are fortunate that we have a chap like him leading the flotation bid as he is lacking in any credibility."

The official comment from the Nationwide is muted, pointing out that he lost the vote for change last year.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.77	Germany 2.98	Malaysia 0.56	Singapore 2.90
Austria 20.21	Greece 48.15	Mexico 0.825	South Africa 5.53
Belgium 59.27	Hong Kong 12.25	Netherlands 3.221	Spain 242.21
Canada 2.222	India 66.51	New Zealand 3.21	Sweden 12.86
Cyprus 0.544	Ireland 1.13	Norway 12.21	Switzerland 2.382
Denmark 11.00	Israel 0.09	Portugal 251.57	Turkey 410.690
Finland 8.915	Italy 2.638	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.882
France 6.818			

Supplied by Harwood (forecasting rupees, shekel and malays)

Cricket

County Championship

Lancashire v Somerset

Wasim ends long wait

Andy Wilson at Old Trafford

LANCASHIRE could have polished off the six remaining Somerset wickets before lunch yesterday, in time to watch the footy with a few celebratory beers. Instead Des, Jimmy and Alan had finished chewing the fat and been succeeded by Panaman on the press-box television, by the time Wasim Akram had Andrew Caddick caught behind to complete Lancashire's second championship victory of the season, by nine runs.

It was a suitable finish to an absorbing game, although five points were scant reward for Somerset's admirable effort.

When their opener Piran Holloway, who had grafted through 53 overs for 47, was seventh out with the score on 123 — and 148 still needed — it appeared that Lancashire would at least be able to watch the second half of the 'Marseille' match. Perhaps they assumed so, as their cricket became more ragged.

John Crawley had already dropped the easiest of chances, offered by Holloway in the 10th over of the day; this prompted Wasim, the unlucky bowler, not only to withdraw himself from the attack but also to leave the field. When he returned, Lancashire's Pakistan skipper mixed the odd unplayable delivery with too many wayward ones, 14 of which were no-halls. Mike Watkinson dropped Marcus Trescothick

at third slip off Gieo Chapple with the score on 182. Trescothick and score 48 Rose went on to more, taking their eighth-wicket stand to 102 before Wasim produced a beauty to bowl Rose for 56. Rose and Trescothick were entitled to expect more from the next man in, Mushtaq Ahmed, than the half-hearted pull at Peter Martin which lobbed a catch to mid-on four overs later.

Trescothick, tall and correct, reached an 84-half-century with a well-timed straight push in the next over and, together with a determined Caddick, ensured that Lancashire eyes remained trained nervously towards the middle rather than proudly towards Paul Scholes in France.

Paddy McKewen, who had earlier taken a sharp catch at short leg to dismiss Rob Turner, then dropped the third chance of the day at backward point. Trescothick, reprieved for a second time, celebrated by hooking Martin into the members' area for six; Dav Whatmore, Lancashire's Australian coach, beat his fists in frustration on the dressing-room balcony.

At 3.37pm, with the first ball of his 21st over, Wasim found Caddick's outside edge for his fourth wicket of the innings and seventh of the match. Lancashire took 22 points to climb into the top half of the table and, if they can beat a below-strength Surrey at Old Trafford this week, this victory could prove a turning point.



Rose pruned... Wasim Akram bowls the Somerset all-rounder for 56 to put Lancashire closer to victory at Old Trafford

Yorkshire v Hants

Aymes helps hit the target

David Hopps at Headingley

HAMPSHIRE showed an exemplary sense of duty as they resisted Yorkshire's attempts to force a victory which, without the weekend's rain, would have been all but inevitable. There are times when the stubbornness of the workaday county cricketer deserves nothing but admiration.

Survival was the only aim for Hampshire, as they summed the first day's run 114 behind with seven second-innings wickets remaining after following on. Brooding Leeds skies cleared to allow a start by 12.25, and about an hour later the first chants of "England" waited in on the breeze from the Original Oak pub, where Ian Botham caressed before putting the Australians to flight in 1981.

It would have been so easy for Hampshire, as they resumed the first day's run 114 behind with seven second-innings wickets remaining after following on. Brooding Leeds skies cleared to allow a start by 12.25, and about an hour later the first chants of "England" waited in on the breeze from the Original Oak pub, where Ian Botham caressed before putting the Australians to flight in 1981.

On a pitch possessing the colour and charm of a day-old chapati, Adrian Aymes and Paul Whitaker held sway. Aymes resisted for nearly four hours in all — more than three yesterday — for an otherwise unremarkable 73. Richard Stamp's left-arm spin finally trapping him low.

Whitaker, an exiled Tyke staunchly proving his merits, was equally obdurate; never has an assertive baseball stance resulted in so many defensive pushes. Whitaker made 32.21 hours before Paul Hutchins yoked him with the second new ball.

Hampshire's lead was then 27 and Yorkshire had the final hour to take the last three wickets. Chris Silverwood, who had been dismissed by Nizkor McLean slogged his fourth ball high into the air, leaving the last pair together with a lead of 42 and a maximum of seven overs remaining for Yorkshire to bat.

Kevan James's miss-pull fell short of the boundary. Hutchins, and a frantic lbw appeal was refused. For Yorkshire, a dismal June continued. To make matters worse, Craig White, the county's most consistent bowler this season, spent the afternoon in a Leeds hospital undergoing a course of injections to settle an increasingly debilitating back injury.

Gloucestershire v Warwickshire

Lara lot of woe worsens

David Foot at Nevill Road

WARWICKSHIRE, not so long ago the best team in the country, yesterday lost their third championship match in a row. They offered little more than a whimper of genuine resistance as Gloucestershire, with sharp-toothed efficiency, gobbled up the last eight wickets in 100 minutes to win by 170 runs.

There is consternation back at Edgbaston, critical talk of Brian Lara's captaincy and, worse, his form. Warwickshire are near the bottom of the table and questions are being asked.

They were all out — only two had gone on Saturday — for 131. Heavy rain had left the pitch damp and Courtney Walsh took six wickets for a dozen from the match. Mike Smith was the perfect foil as he swung both ways and skidded a few through too.

But bad batting was as discernible as good bowling. Lara, for whom so little has

gone right with the bat since his contentious return, lasted three balls. Smith, who threatens to become an lbw executioner of epic proportions, dismissed the Trinidadian that way. Lara remained rooted to the crease, palpably ruling his compatriot misfortunes rather than the validity of the decision.

Nick Knight dissipated 29 overs of concentration by offering no stroke. There were other misjudgements, finally Doug Brown's as he failed to detect Walsh's change of pace and spooned to mid-off. He had at least played some decent shots and was last to go.

Gloucestershire are looking encouragingly aggressive as, with a game in hand, they stay close to the leaders. They have a fine opening attack; Mark Alleyne not only captained well but his century was a crucial factor.

Afterwards, and quietly, Lara said: "My own form is terrible, and clearly I'm working very hard to put it right. It's a great experience cap-

taining the county, though it's very different of course from leading a Test team over a shorter period. So far I haven't done a very good job of it.

"My task is to lift Warwickshire. In this match against some fine bowling, our batsmen have just not been up to it. We're doing our best to sort things out.

After the match the team and their coach Phil Neale held a lengthy team talk in the dressing-room. Lara added: "This is a team sport but things have been slipping away from us. We have a good bunch of cricketers, yet I accept that morale is low at the moment. We're determined it won't stay like that."

Smith accounted for the first four wickets yesterday with penetrating swing. Walsh, untroubled on pace and lift. The West Indian was on a hat-trick when he yoked Graeme Welch and bowled Neil Smith with a ball which, by way of variety, cracked against the base of the stumps.

Alarm bells for Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN, unlikely to reach a victory target of 312, only just hung on for a draw against Worcestershire at Sophia Gardens. The champions were 44 runs short with two wickets remaining at the end of play, Worcestershire having declared at 298 for seven.

Two as-in-disrupted matches were abandoned as draws with no play on the final day.

At Grace Road, Kent were 120 for seven after skidding out Leicestershire for 108. Durham's 248 for four in reply to Northamptonshire's 193 at the Riverside was enough to give them second place on the table, 24 points behind Surrey.

Essex v Surrey

Butcher left under cloud

Nigel Fuller at Chelmsford

MARK BUTCHER looked a dejected figure as he left the ground on a day when the weather denied Surrey a victory which would have consolidated their place at the top of the championship table.

But it was not the interference of the elements which left him gloomy. In trying to take a catch near the end of the match he received a blow on his left thumb and must be worried with the second Test only a couple of days away.

Surrey haven't won at Chelmsford since 1960, a year

that also saw Essex finish bottom of the table for the only time in their history. A second occasion beckons on the evidence of this latest performance.

Rain proved Surrey's enemy after they had forced Essex to follow on 170 behind and reduced them to 49 for four. After a downpour at around 2.45pm the players emerged again three hours later but Surrey's chance had gone. Only a further 12 overs remained and they called off their victory attempt midway through.

Prior to the stoppage Martin Bicknell took full advantage to expose the frailty of

Essex's batting, clean bowling Paul Grayson and Nasser Hussain in his second over, and Darren Robinson finding the hands of Butcher at third slip.

Soon afterwards Ronie Irani was to give Butcher more fielding practice on the square-leg boundary when opening his shoulders against Alex Tudor.

Messrs Robinson, Grayson and Irani had managed only two half-centuries between them this season in a total of 31 championship innings and that depressing statistic helps explain why Essex appear to have one hand on the wooden spoon.

Scoreboard

BIRMINGHAM ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP	
GLAMORGAN v WORCESTERSHIRE	
Gloucestershire (1st Innings) 278 (38.5 overs)	
Worcestershire (1st Innings) 278 (38.5 overs)	
GLAMORGAN	
1 M. Smith 100 (110)	
2 D. Brown 50 (60)	
3 A. Smith 40 (50)	
4 P. Neale 30 (40)	
5 J. Smith 20 (30)	
6 M. Smith 10 (20)	
7 A. Smith 10 (20)	
8 P. Neale 10 (20)	
9 J. Smith 10 (20)	
10 M. Smith 10 (20)	
11 A. Smith 10 (20)	
12 P. Neale 10 (20)	
13 J. Smith 10 (20)	
14 M. Smith 10 (20)	
15 A. Smith 10 (20)	
16 P. Neale 10 (20)	
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91 A. Smith 10 (20)	
92 P. Neale 10 (20)	
93 J. Smith 10 (20)	
94 M. Smith 10 (20)	
95 A. Smith 10 (20)	
96 P. Neale 10 (20)	
97 J. Smith 10 (20)	
98 M. Smith 10 (20)	
99 A. Smith 10 (20)	
100 P. Neale 10 (20)	

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2. Ernie Els (RSA) 16 (16)	
3. Retief Goosen (RSA) 17 (17)	
4. Nick Faldo (ENG) 18 (18)	
5. Ian Woosnam (WAL) 19 (19)	
6. Stuart Appin (SCO) 20 (20)	
7. David Howell (ENG) 21 (21)	
8. Paul Lawrie (SCO) 22 (22)	
9. Colin Montgomerie (SCO) 23 (23)	
10. Mark Williams (WAL) 24 (24)	
11. Ian Poulter (ENG) 25 (25)	
12. Adam Long (ENG) 26 (26)	
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18. Mark Henshaw (AUS) 32 (32)	
19. David Howell (ENG) 33 (33)	
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26. Simon Dunlop (SCO) 40 (40)	
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29. Ian Baker-Nixon (AUS) 43 (43)	
30. Mark Henshaw (AUS) 44 (44)	
31. David Howell (ENG) 45 (45)	
32. Paul Lawrie (SCO) 46 (46)	
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36. Adam Long (ENG) 50 (50)	
37. Lee Westwood (ENG) 51 (51)	
38. Simon Dunlop (SCO) 52 (52)	
39. Justin Leonard (ENG) 53 (53)	
40. Graeme McDowell (NIR) 54 (54)	
41. Ian Baker-Nixon (AUS) 55 (55)	
42. Mark Henshaw (AUS) 56 (56)	
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81. Colin Montgomerie (SCO) 95 (95)	
82. Mark Williams (WAL) 96 (96)	
83. Ian Poulter (ENG) 97 (97)	
84. Adam Long (ENG) 98 (98)	
85. Lee Westwood (ENG) 99 (99)	
86. Simon Dunlop (SCO) 100 (100)	

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
NEW YORK YANKEES	
1. New York Yankees (A) 15 (15)	
2. Boston Red Sox (A) 16 (16)	
3. Toronto Blue Jays (A) 17 (17)	
4. Baltimore Orioles (A) 18 (18)	
5. Tampa Bay Devil Rays (A) 19 (19)	
6. Detroit Tigers (A) 20 (20)	
7. Cleveland Indians (A) 21 (21)	
8. Chicago White Sox (A) 22 (22)	
9. Minnesota Twins (A) 23 (23)	
10. Kansas City Royals (A) 24 (24)	
11. Seattle Mariners (A) 25 (25)	
12. Oakland Athletics (A) 26 (26)	
13. Texas Rangers (A) 27 (27)	
14. Los Angeles Angels (A) 28 (28)	
15. Anaheim Angels (A) 29 (29)	
16. Houston Astros (A) 30 (30)	
17. San Francisco Giants (A) 31 (31)	
18. St. Louis Cardinals (A) 32 (32)	
19. Pittsburgh Pirates (A) 33 (33)	
20. Cincinnati Reds (A) 34 (34)	
21. Milwaukee Brewers (A) 35 (35)	
22. San Diego Padres (A) 36 (36)	
23. Los Angeles Dodgers (A) 37 (37)	
24. San Francisco Giants (A) 38 (38)	
25. St. Louis Cardinals (A) 39 (39)	
26. Pittsburgh Pirates (A) 40 (40)	
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81. St. Louis Cardinals (A) 95 (95)	
82. Pittsburgh Pirates (A) 96 (96)	
83. Cincinnati Reds (A) 97 (97)	
84. Milwaukee Brewers (A) 98 (98)	
85. San Diego Padres (A) 99 (99)	
86. Los Angeles Dodgers (A) 100 (100)	

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE	
NEW YORK YANKEES	
1. New York Yankees (A) 15 (15)	
2. Boston Red Sox (A) 16 (16)	
3. Toronto Blue Jays (A) 17 (17)	
4. Baltimore Orioles (A) 18 (18)	
5. Tampa Bay Devil Rays (A) 19 (19)	
6. Detroit Tigers (A) 20 (20)	
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12. Oakland Athletics (A) 26 (26)	
13. Texas Rangers (A) 27 (27)	

France 98

Ugly duckling swans on to the world stage

Richard Williams finds England shoe a perfect fit for Scholes

ALTHOUGH it would be unwise to exaggerate the quality and significance of England's victory over Tunisia yesterday, the performance of Paul Scholes represented an important advance for Glenn Hoddle's side. Winning only his seventh cap, the 23-year-old Manchester United player made exactly the kind of contribution to the team's strategy — in effect if not in style — that might have been expected from Paul Gascoigne in his prime. Lying closer to the front pair than Gascoigne would have done,

Match stats

	Eng	Tun
Possession	53%	47%
Attempts on target	7	3
Attempts off target	2	9
Corners	10	3
Fouls	12	25
Offsides	0	1
Bookings	1	3

Scholes produced a classic, old-fashioned inside-forward's performance, full of creativity, continuity and generosity, and with a sharp eye for a scoring chance.

This is just what England need. Historically prone to a kind of mental stiffness at international level, when a reliance on athleticism is never enough, English players require an animating force, someone with the natural gift of creating a sense of movement — and, these days, of collective movement at unpredictable angles, such as the best teams achieve.

With Ince and Batty winning the ball, Anderton and Le Saux maintaining the team's attacking width, and Shearer and Sheringham keeping the centre of Tunisia's defence occupied, Scholes was able to provide the dynamism that engendered and maintained a sense of unpredictability.

Whenever they field a team lacking the qualities of a Johnny Haynes, a young Alan Ball or a fit Gascoigne, England's traditional weaknesses become embarrassingly obvious. Given a display such as that of Scholes yesterday, players like Shearer and Ince grow an extra couple of inches in stature. And if they

can benefit, then the more mundane performers can seem transformed. Against admittedly modest opposition, England yesterday had no real weak links. And we should not forget that modest opposition have occasionally brought out the worst in them.

In terms of publicity, Scholes has suffered in recent months from the comparative eclipse of his team's younger generation, overshadowed by Arsenal's progress towards the Double. Suffered, too, from the attention — thoroughly justified, it must be said — paid to Michael Owen.

On the other hand, Scholes may have benefited from being allowed to pursue his international career in relative peace and quiet, just as he has in the domestic game under Alex Ferguson's tutelage at Old Trafford, where the more charismatic figures of Ryan Giggs and David Beckham attract the paparazzi.

There has always been a sense that Ferguson cherished Scholes's talent above all the many fostered by his regime — partly, one suspects, because he is a bit of an ugly duckling. Short-legged, sandy-haired, with a round face and anonymous features, he wouldn't stand out in a queue. You certainly can't imagine him being snapped on holiday wearing a skirt, with a pop star on his arm.

Scholes becomes a schoolboy's pin-up solely by virtue of his deeds. In his manager's eyes, too, he is prized for his craftsmanship. Football is written all the way through Scholes, and its less glamorous tasks come as easily to him as its moments of glory. Either he is a genuinely modest man, or a good actor.

It took him 13 minutes to catch the eye yesterday. When Sol Campbell broke through two Tunisian tackles on the left, Scholes was making ground inside him. A flicked pass refused to match his stride pattern, so he turned through 360 degrees and manufactured a shot that ricocheted away for a corner.

Ten minutes later Ince possessed Skander Souayah in midfield, exchanged passes with Sheringham and found



Finishing touch... Paul Scholes caps a performance of great creativity by curling home England's second goal to make victory safe at Stade Vélodrome

PHOTOGRAPH: ROSS KINCAID

Le Saux wide on the left. When the wing-back's cross came over, there was Scholes, rising in the six-yard box and heading powerfully down, but unable to get enough of an angle on the ball to beat Chokri El Ouer.

Soon afterwards Ince fed Shearer, who delivered a lovely ball to Sheringham. A measured cross from the right was met at the near post by Scholes with a stabbed shot that bounced up and forced El Ouer to push it past the post.

A few minutes into the second half we saw a glimpse of the gift that, of England's current squad, only Scholes possesses. Intercepting the ball in midfield, he carried it away from Kales Ghodhbane, beat Sirageldine Chidi and Khalid Badra as he moved into the Tunisian penalty area and fell victim only to a well-judged final tackle by the sweeper Mounir Boukadia.

In the ball, Scholes can dribble with the ball and beat people as he does it, in the old-fashioned style. He keeps the ball close, as Gascoigne did, but is not so dependent on his bulk and his elbows to keep opponents at bay.

As a means of changing the direction and pace of play, and of committing opponents and taking them out of the game, this is a valuable and underrated art. No team would want too many dribblers, but every team should have at least one. As Scholes showed in the 80th minute, when he accelerated past

Ghodhbane to be halted by a foul which earned the Tunisian a yellow card, it can have a thoroughly demoralising effect.

But Scholes needed none of his dribbling skills two minutes from time, when he scored the goal that sealed England's victory. The touch of flamboyance came from Ince, whose contribution to the game had been typically robust and whose lack of pace — compared, at any rate, to his days at Old Trafford —

had not been exposed by the Tunisians. Ince it was who beat Imed Ben Younes and Chihli in succession before playing a delicious backheel across the area to Scholes.

Ince's initiative deserved the proper response, and Scholes found it. Evading Tarek Thabet's challenge, he moved across the area before hitting a right-foot shot that curled in a beautiful arc past El Ouer's left hand and inside the far post. Never mind Gascoigne, for once. This was

a shot that a Gerson or a Platini would have been proud to add to a video of greatest hits. Perhaps Matthew Le Tissier could have matched its lethal grace, but would he have equalled the rest of Scholes's contribution? Whether or not it prefaces greater things for England, this was a moment to adorn any World Cup, completing an individual display that will have been noted in the dossiers of the world's best coaches.

Born-again Anderton wins Hoddle's hosannas

GLENN HODDLE may not be prone to hyperbole, but the England coach went close to overkill in acclaiming England's victory, saying: "We could have taken them to the cleaners."

"After talking for a long time to get into the tournament, it was great to get off with a win," he said. "After we'd settled down after the first 15 minutes, certain individuals had tremendous games."

"This was a tricky game for us. I felt this was the worst time to play Tunisia with the beat and the fact that this was very much their World Cup final. But I was delighted with the way we performed. One swallow does not make a summer but today we looked snarled and confident with what we were trying to do."

Having opted for Darren Anderton in the right-wing back role instead of David Beckham, Hoddle was quick to extol the virtues of the Tottenham man. "He worked absolutely tremendously down that right flank. He uses the ball well, and he's going to get stronger and stronger."

Hoddle reserved special praise, though, for Paul Scholes, the man who filled

Shearer v Sheringham

	Eng	Tun
Goals	1	0
Assists	1	0
Minutes	90	90
Yellow cards	0	0
Red cards	0	0
Substitutions	3	3
Goalkeeping	1	1
Defence	4	4
Midfield	4	4
Attack	3	3
Goalkeeping	1	1
Defence	4	4
Midfield	4	4
Attack	3	3

Paul Gascoigne's creative midfield role with conspicuous success. "He played a superb role just off the front two. He got into the box, timed his runs

well, used the ball well, and can beat people. There were a lot of good things and Scholes was behind them."

Scholes made few bones about feeling under pressure. "I felt I had to produce and maybe make or score a goal like I did. It was a great ball from Paul Ince. I was going to play the ball back to him but I miss-controlled it a bit so I just turned and hit it."

Alan Shearer revealed that the free-kick from which he scored England's opener had been well rehearsed. "We have worked on one or two set-pieces over the last few weeks and it is always nice when one comes that way," he said. "It was a tremendous ball from Graeme Le Saux."

"It's been a good result," he added, "but let's not get carried away."

Tunisia's coach Henryk Kasperczak, who played for Poland when thwarted England's hopes of reaching the 1974 World Cup final, felt the game was lost in midfield. "Their midfield controlled the ball better than we did. They have some very good players who have very strong links to their strikers and they are very dangerous, especially in dead-ball situations."

Group G: Romania 1 Colombia 0

Cobra strikes down Colombians

Michael Walker in Lyon

ANYONE who thought England had been given an unfavourable group when the draw for the World Cup finals was made in December will have been relieved by events yesterday afternoon.

With Tunisia safely dispatched in Marseille, Glenn Hoddle's spies here, Dave Sexton and Peter Taylor, will no doubt be reporting to the boss that England have practically nothing to fear from Colombia, bar falling asleep on the job, and Romania can hardly have struck fear in the camp with a performance high on efficiency but low on imagination.

Romania, however, will get better. Once they had secured the victory through Adrian Ilie's classy scooped shot seconds before half-time, they entered through the rest of the match.

That they were able to do so says much about Colombia, and it is little wonder that Faustino Asprilla admitted last week that there was less pressure on his team than four years ago because of reduced expectations back home. Asprilla, substituted near the end, and walking straight past his colleagues and manager Hernan Dario Gomez to the tunnel, justified that sentiment on his own. The rest were not far behind.

"In the first period we lacked cohesion and clarity. After the break we were much more determined but unfortunately we missed all our scoring opportunities. Now we have to find our cohesion and make sure we win next time."

Meanwhile, in the Romanian camp, their captain was celebrating. "The important thing is that we won," said George Hagi. "Nothing else matters."

"We showed that when we

Match stats

	Rom	Col
Possession	51%	49%
Attempts on target	6	4
Attempts off target	10	7
Corners	6	1
Fouls	21	24
Offsides	5	2
Bookings	3	1

Clearly unhappy as he banged the top of the transparent plastic bench long after the final whistle, Gomez understandably criticised his players' attitude. Romania's manager Anghel Iordanescu was positive when he defined his side's display as "pragmatic and intelligent", a reasonable assessment.

The build-up to the game was overshadowed, literally, by two things: the first a rain storm of tropical intensity that made the surface slick, though not

treacherous, the second a large picture of Andres Escobar draped in front of a section of Colombian fans.

Beside the picture a national flag had "Colombia: Peace" written on it and the Colombians began as if they were trying to live up to that statement — lacklustre makes them sound energetic. It took them more than half an hour to worry the Romania back three even slightly, then the mere presence of Jorge Bermudez was almost enough to cause George Popescu to put through his own goal.

Encouragement should have been taken, and yet that incident apart, Colombia produced no further threat until 10 minutes into the second half when Jose Santa, in space in the Romania penalty area, chose to cross rather than shoot.

The problem was a straightforward one when viewed from the stands: Colombia lacked width and pace, and Asprilla had nothing other than the odd surge forward by Carlos Valderrama to call support. Gomez did try to rectify that in the second half, bringing on Adolfo "The Train" Valencia, but too often he began on the wrong platform.

Belatedly Bogdan Stelae in the Romania goal was forced into the occasional punch and block but that was because those ahead of him had slackened off.

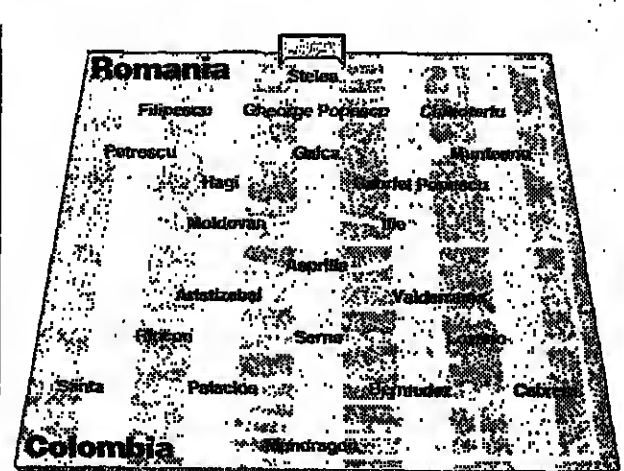
Freddy Rincon offered brief resistance for the Colombians but the ease of the win can be judged by the contribution of George Hagi. The great man stroled about, as he does, for 99 per cent of the 77 minutes he was on the field but when the goal came he was inevitably involved.

His flick towards Ilie hit a Colombian leg on the way but it was still Ilie's to collect. Maurizio Serna was

then expertly bypassed before the man nicknamed The Cobra flicked an improvised shot over Farid Mondragon into the far corner. He might just be the snake in the grass for England next week.

Substitutions: Romania: Stelae for Gabriel Popescu, Gheorghe Hagi for Nicolae; Colombia: Bermudez for Arretzabal, Irujo for Asprilla, Serna for Popescu.

REFEREE: L. K. Chong (Malaysia).



Asprilla... off in a huff

Asprilla... off in a huff

Team talk

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Blackburn	64	Leicester City	77	Southampton	70
Bolton	65	Liverpool	78	Spurs	71
Brentford	66	Man. City	79	Stoke City	72
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Coventry City	70	Newcastle Utd	83	Wimbledon	76
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Everton	73	QPR	86		

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Road to the final



A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	1	0	0	2	1	3	3
Morocco	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Norway	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Scotland	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Sweden	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
France	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Italy	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Italy	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Bulgaria	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Paraguay	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Belgium	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Holland	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
South Korea	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
France	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Italy	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Colombia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Argentina	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Japan	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

I	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
France	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Italy	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

J	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Colombia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

K	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
France	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Italy	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

L	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Colombia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

M	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
France	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Italy	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

N	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Colombia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

O	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
France	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Italy	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spain	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

P	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Colombia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
United States	1	0	0	0	0	3	3

France 98



Head start... Andy Möller rises to put Germany ahead after only nine minutes with the United States defence all at sea

Group F: Germany 2 United States 0

Klinsmann kick-starts Germany

Steve Sampson and his American lads were a long, long way from home

GERMANY opened up their World Cup campaign in a surprisingly high gear here at the Parc des Princes last night, casting aside their tradition of being slow starters.

Had the margin of victory been wider, few of those bedecked in the Stars and Stripes would have complained such was the gulf in class between countries who share the belief that in sport, as in life, winning is all.

Only at the death, when the die was cast, did the Americans threaten to embarrass the three-times winners but by then it was far, far too late.

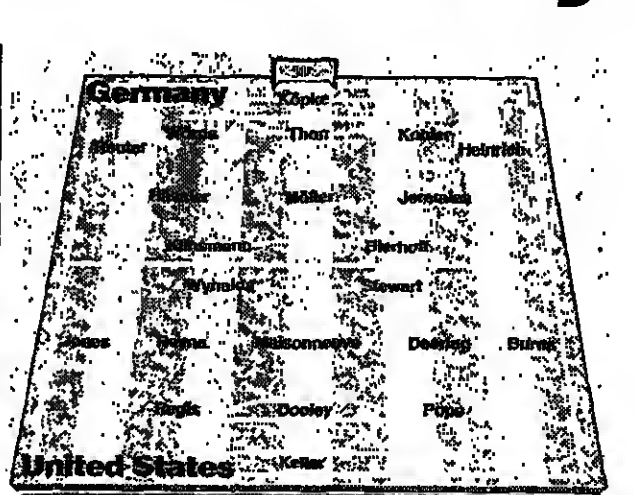
The United States can play but they would fare a good deal better were they able to summon up the courage to remove the theatrical flourishes which enthral audiences back home but which so dramatically reduce their effectiveness on foreign soil.

And this was foreign soil. Steve Sampson and his lads were a long, long way from home, in the biggest ball park of all and simply hoping that Germany would again suffer from the nerves.

Having already lost the highly gifted Borussia Dortmund midfielder Steffen Freund to a calf injury which may leave him inactive until

the tournament's second phase, the German coach Bertie Vogts opted to leave Lothar Matthäus on the substitutes' bench — possibly to the relief of those colleagues who do not see eye to eye with the veteran.

Not that Germany looked to be in need of experience as a cautious game opened at a surprisingly frenetic pace.



It was the sheer precision of Germany's football which always threatened to lift the Americans up off their feet and carry them away. The movement of Jürgen Klinsmann and Oliver Bierhoff in attack was cleverly augmented by a midfield in which Thomas Hässler was outstanding but each and every German attack carried menace. A heady cocktail indeed.

The United States held firm until the ninth minute, no mean feat under the circumstances. The architect of a breakthrough which had always looked likely was Klinsmann who leapt magnificently deep inside the penalty area to head a corner from the back across the face of goal.

The lucky recipient was Andy Möller who arrowed in a header so accurate that it found its way into the small gap which separated the defender Mike Burns and a post.

It was either good fortune or the finishing of a man with an enviable understanding of geometry. Quite probably the latter.

It was one-way traffic with the Americans stuck in the sun. Had Bierhoff's finishing been even adequate the contest would have been over long before the interval but twice he missed badly when invitingly placed.

The departure of the limping Hässler shortly after the interval briefly served to disrupt Germany's rhythm — something the Americans had singularly failed to do in the opening half.

The United States promptly began to blossom and would have forced a most improbable equaliser after 53 minutes but for the agility of the German goalkeeper Andreas Köpcke. David Regis' fine cross from the left flank was reached first by the substitute Frankie Hejduk, his header being speedily pushed aside by Köpcke who was then required to save for a second time as Claudio Reyna threatened to turn home the rebound.

Gamely the United States pushed forward, living in hope but probably fearing the worst; they were to pay a very heavy price for adventure.

Midway through the second period Klinsmann reminded the world that age has done little to dull his effectiveness. Having collected Bierhoff's cross, he chested the ball into

Clouds obscure some home truths from abroad

Steve Busfield gets the local view of the Lens defeat from a Jamaican bar

ON PAPER, it was the most seductive story line of this World Cup: football played to the rhythms of Bob Marley and Steel Pulse by a bunch of irrepressible newcomers.

Unfortunately for Jamaica and all lovers of the blind-faith underdog, World Cup are won with a touch more pragmatism — with crunching slide tackles and cunning set-pieces and opportunism at the first sight of a rebound pinged off the crossbar.

Croatia, a far less charming story than Jamaica, are better-versed in the hard facts of international football.

Jamaica had its legion of yellow-black-and-green clad supporters dancing in the aisles at half-time in Lens. Back home Robbie Earle's pre-interval goal gave the viewers in the Negril bar hope and some half-time ganja calmed the nerves.

Croatia's two second-half goals set off the babbling patois debate and calls from the local party boy MC for the reserve goalkeeper to replace Warren Barrett in goal. MC had been to school with Aaron Lawrence.

Ugly Man wanted more dribbling from the mid-

field. Apparently he had been a professional footballer himself before his team had been kicked out of the league after they "lost it, man."

"Crazy Englishman" was the main response to suggestions that Robbie and Marcus Gayle were good at Wimbledon precisely because the Dons were successful because of Route One. They weren't loving any of this — they love their fair despite Jamaica's obvious lack of it.

That stunning Nike advert starring Ronaldo taking the Michael out of Eric Cantona drew more gasps of exclamation from the stoned audience back home.

They were truly pleased that the English boy was highly delighted by Earle's equaliser, but it was rather difficult to explain that Yo Man is the closest that Port

Vale will be to providing a World Cup hero in this Millennium.

It was good that the volume was turned down when news of the "Keep St George in my heart" crew were making their presence felt in the south of France, because the locals have a touching affection for "the mother country".

Maybe it was just that the English boys were more interested in the football than their American consins who were desperate to know if anybody was interested in American Football.

They couldn't understand when it was pointed out that this was the international language and that to the rest of the world gridiron was football in name only.

They could sympathise with the English boys' worries about Gascoigne. "Too much party with the rich boys"

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The Guardian Tuesday June 16 1998

World stage

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France 98

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The Guardian Sport

Tuesday June 16 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

France 98

Group G: England 2 Tunisia 0

Scholes crowns England's day

David Lacey sees Hoddle's men use their heads to get off to a solid and auspicious start

ENGLAND remembered their lines in the Stade Velodrome here yesterday. They also remembered their close-order drill. As a result Glenn Hoddle's team achieved a better start to this World Cup than most of their predecessors had managed in previous tournaments.

The victory over Tunisia, one of the weaker finalists,

It was not a spectacular performance but then the situation did not demand it

was hardly unexpected but it was achieved with rather more comfort than might have been anticipated. None of Hoddle's players, it bears remembering, went into the game with experience of playing in the final stages of a World Cup but by the end they were beginning to look old hands.

It was not a spectacular performance but then the situation did not demand it. England kept their heads, Alan Shearer used his superbly to not them into the lead shortly before half-time, and in the penultimate minute Paul Scholes completed a solid win with a goal of typically calm execution.

The underlying strength of England's first winning start to a World Cup since Ron Greenwood's team beat France 3-1 in Bilbao in 1962 lay in the organisational and tactical disciplines which had eased Hoddle's side through potentially tricky qualifiers in Moldova and Georgia before gaining momentum in Poland and Italy. Since England are, in effect, being asked to qualify all over again



On their bikes... Sol Campbell (centre) celebrates England's opening goal from Alan Shearer (second right) at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: DOUG MILLS

before reaching the knock-out stage there was a certain logic in this.

For 67 minutes it looked as if Hoddle would gain the added satisfaction of seeing his team survive the opening match without any yellow cards. Then Sol Campbell committed a gratuitous foul on Imed Ben Younes, one of the Tunisian substitutes, and will take a caution into his next game, which will presumably be against Romania in Toulouse on Monday.

Encouraging though England's start has been little new was learned yesterday about their chances of beating the Romanians before they have to face Colombia in Lens. Both will surely provide rather stiffer opposition than a Tunisian team that turned out to be a mixture of

the neat and the ganche; natty one moment, shabby the next.

The important thing was that England remained the solid, integrated unit away from home that had qualified for the World Cup in some style. What remains to be discovered is their ability to produce the moments of quality, especially in attack, which will become more and more necessary the further they progress.

Yesterday England were less in need of the sorcerer's touch than the sergeant major's sense of order. If Hoddle is going to make a decent fist of this World Cup he will look to the consistency of his senior NCOs, who yesterday did all that was required of them.

Paul Ince pulled the mid-field together after an

awkward start when, for a time, Skander Souayah raised the spectre of some of this year's warm-up matches at Wembley as he threatened to exploit the space he was being given. In fact there was a near-calamity for England in the third minute when Kales Ghodhane instigated a slick sequence of passes which found Souayah in space and in range, his shot ricocheting wide off Campbell. Apart from the free headers wasted by Khaled Badra and Ben Younes at the end of each half England's defenders were seldom troubled thereafter.

The match confirmed the potential of Shearer as a match-winner and Scholes as the most natural replacement for Paul Gascoigne in the role of supporting attacker. Teddy Sheringham, below par since the new year, did much to confirm Hoddle's argument that he rises to occasions although for the last six minutes he gave way to Michael Owen, the short, slim, swift shape of things to come.

Defensively England suffered few of their recent flutters against opponents taking them on for pace and guile, although Romania and Colombia may renew some familiar anxieties. All that was asked of David Seaman was concentration on a largely

idle afternoon. For a while, in fact, the Tunisian goalkeeper, Chokri El Ouair, looked as if he might become a national hero by keeping England at bay.

On the half-hour, Ince having exchanged passes with Sheringham and then released Graeme Le Saux on the left, Scholes met Le Saux's cross with a firm header that El Ouair somehow kept out.

Seven minutes later Ince and Shearer worked the ball out to Sheringham, whose sharp centre from the right found Scholes again in a scoring position but again unable

to beat El Ouair, who turned his half-hit shot wide. But an England goal was in the offing and in the 41st minute it arrived from the most predictable source.

From the start Shearer was consistently being pushed and jostled by Sami Trabelsi, captain as it were. Now Trabelsi fouled his opposite number on the right, and from Le Saux's free-kick Shearer rose from a clutch of defenders to head the ball down inside the near post.

England gradually wound down for much of the second half. Their supporters sang

the theme from the Great Escape but Hoddle's players were never going to have to tunnel their way out of this one.

For a long time the most emphatic moment of the last 45 minutes was the audible crack with which David Baty's boot caught Ben Younes above the left eye as the England midfielder quite legitimately tried to hook the ball clear. But the postscript was more to English taste.

With stoppage time indicated, Ince flicked the ball away from one Tunisian and as it dropped, with two more converging, hackheeled a short pass to Scholes, who made space before curling an excellent shot inside the right-hand post.

As starts go England could really not have asked for anything more. But more is bound to be asked of Hoddle's players, and soon, which is why the controlled nature of yesterday's victory was so important. That and the three points.

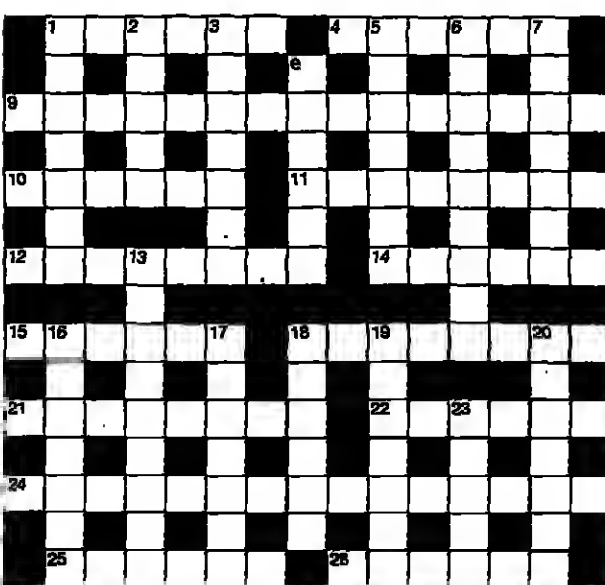
SUBSTITUTES England: Owen for Sheringham, Benn. Tunisia: Baya for Souayah, 4-1; Ben Younes for Ben Slimane, 4-1; Trabelsi for H. Trabelsi, 7-1.

GOALS England: Campbell, Tunisia: Clayton, Ben Younes, Ghodhane, M Okada (Japan).

Richard Williams, page 14

Guardian Crossword No 21,302

Set by Paul



Across

- 1 A model grooming teeth before fight (6)
- 4 Small boat not light when hydrogen's expelled (6)
- 9 Beach shorts altering fashion? Files in, never flies out? (7,5)
- 10 A sample of Romano's impulsively lyrical recitations (6)
- 11 Il-conceived act with salty chemical accelerator (6)
- 12 Burns badly in babies' beds (6)
- 14 See 13
- 15 Hears Capital Radio broadcast, Capital style? (6)
- 16 Green land, not right, is brown land (6)
- 21 See 3
- 22 Harm 12 here (6)
- 24 A Choral Symphony in

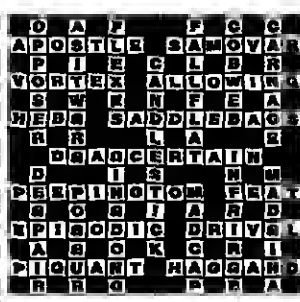
leitmotif to expose buttocks shiny face up (3,3,2,3,4)

25 Tabloid television's getting dinner at the end of the day (6)

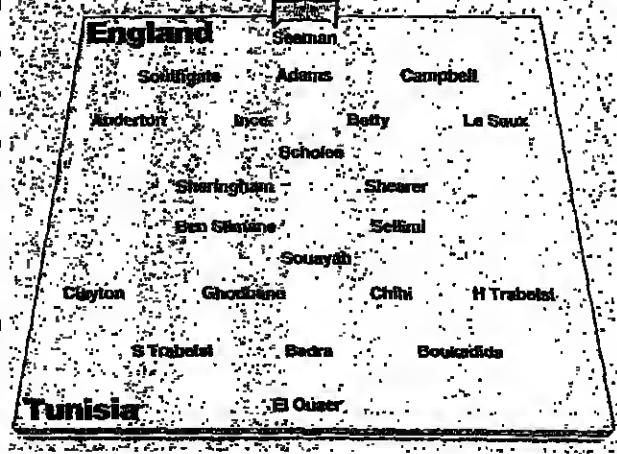
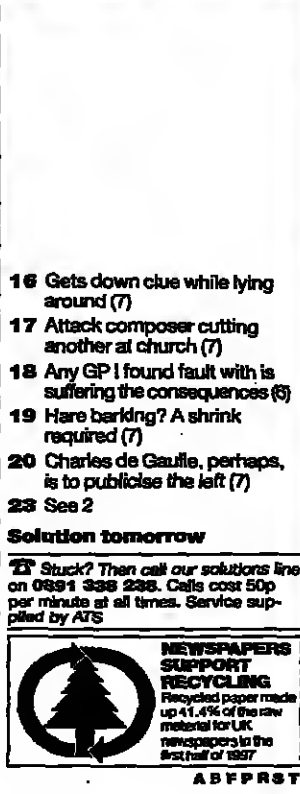
26 Stew gives Academician inflammatory complaint (6)

Down

- 1 Red cards either side of Jack? See you! (7)
- 2,23 Nonsense rhyme (5,5)
- 3,21 Lady PM's lightning for reform? You must be joking (3,4,5,3)
- 5 Turning over the Channel Islands to a dictator is stupid (7)
- 6 Band of criminals overcoming pride and nerves (6)
- 7 Mournful bag, say, refitted with look (4-3)
- 8 Lots of hay (6)
- 13,14 Unfortunate human born to squat in Essex (7-2-6)



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society

Every Wednesday in the

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL



سكنا من الالاهل

Wednesday June 17

Scotland draws with
Tartan Army
breathes

Killing verdict
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Inside